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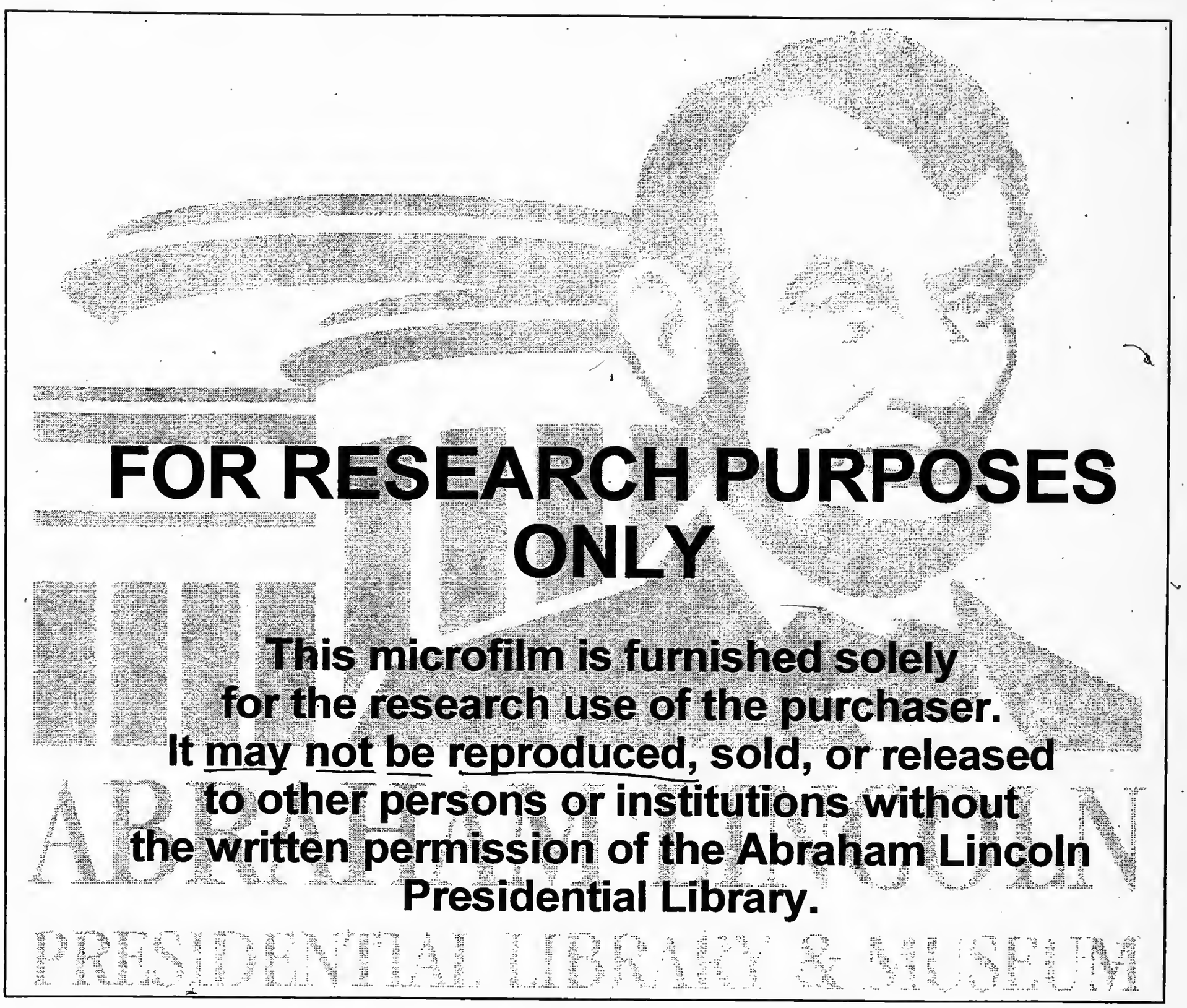

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Village View

Oak Lawn,Illinois

Cook County

From Jan 03, 2012

Thru Dec 18, 2012

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Village View

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SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 38 | Number 13 | January 3, 2012

Burbank, Evergreen Park, Hickory Hills, Justice, Oak Lawn

Important Bridgview Issues Deserve A Special Meeting

By Jan Glaz

On December 14th a Special Committee Meeting presided over by President Landek, Trustees Cecott, Ptieck, Pinion, Struzik and Sutton was held to discuss issues that were later approved at the regularly scheduled Board of Trustee Meeting December 21st. Others in attendance at the Special Meeting were Bridgeview Clerk Altar, Police Chief Harvey, Fire Battalion Chief Daly, Building Director Kaput, and Treasurer Smith.

The first ordinance to be discussed was the Vehicle Fuel Tax for the Village. Trustee Struzik stated that gas prices in all the surrounding communities are very similar regardless of whether or not the community has a Fuel Tax or not but it was agreed that a Fuel Tax would be henefieial to the Village as an additional source of revenue. Next up was Trustee Cecott's input on an Ordinance which would ensure that the Municipal Code and Scavenger Service Contract matched in that the start time of Garhage Pickup would be 6 a.m. instead of the current 6:30 a.m.

THE MOST IMPORTANT DISSCUSSION: Changing the way eleetricity is supplied to Bridgeview in the form of an ordinance which would authorize the submission of a question concerning the supply of eleetricity to the electors at the March 20, 2012 General Primary. It was explained that the aggregation process allowed the Village Residents to maximize their purehasing power by buying electricity at bulk rates and that the Village could see a savings of over $1 million dollars in the over 5000 households, ineluding businesses. Representatives for the Illinois Energy Aggregation, LLC were at hand to give a presentation and answer questions.

When Trustee Struzik asked for clarifieation on Village residents opting out of the program, it was stated that a resident could opt out with no penalty hut would have to stay with ComEd for a period of time afterwards. Trustee Ptieck asked how many electric suppliers there were in the area and the presenters explained that there were multiple energy suppliers and that by aggregating the entire Village there would be greater negotiating power. Both President Landek and Trustee Cecott were curious about who a resident would call if they had an issue with their power service and the presenters answered that ComEd would eontinue to deliver the electricity to all residents and handle all complaints and requests for services. This process would have to be voted on in referendum format after two public hearings. The Illinois Energy Aggregation, LLC would be responsible for edneating the public.

The regularly schednled meeting drew to a close with the approved appointment of Battalion Chief Anthony Butkus to aet as Fire Chief of the Bridgeview Fire Department and William Cronch to be a part-time Police Officer. The finale of the evening was the presentation of a plaque to honor Crossing Guard Mary Richardson who is retiring after 37 years of dedicated service to the Village of Bridgeview.

MetroSouth Medical Center Offers $40 Heart & Circulation Screenings

Southland residents can start the New Year right by giving themselves the life-saving gift of a healthy heart. MetroSouth Medical Center is making it easy by offering an extensive heart and eireulation screening for just $40. The "Healthy Heart & Cireulation Exam" is discounted from its original value of more than $250. To make an appointment for a "Healthy Heart & Circulation Exam," please call 708-597-2000, Option 4, ext. 5615.

The heart check-ups will include a series of tests, ineluding an eleetroeardiogram (EKG)-monitored exercise exam; blood pressure test; and blood work to measure cholesterol, triglycerides and glucose levels. In addition, all participants will have their hody mass index measured and receive an ankle brachial index test to identify eireulation conditions which can lead to heart attaek, stroke and death. Circulation problems in the legs, also referred to as peripheral artery disease (PAD), affeet one in 20 Americans over the age of 50. Patients with PAD are at a significantly increased risk for heart attaek, stroke and death.

Everyone who is tested will receive a comprehensive 12-page report including an analysis of their cardiac risk factors. All participants are asked to fast for at least 10 hours prior to the exam.

MetroSouth Medical Center (MSMC) is nationally recognized for outstanding cardiac care with state-of-the-art cardiac catheterization and electrophysiology labs that feature advanced technology for all interventional procedures. The medical staff is experienced in all cardiac procedures ineluding open heart surgery and coronary and peripheral stenting.

St. Rita of Cascia High School Stock Club Members won seeond place in the Chicago 2011 Stoek Market Competition. Pietured left to right: St. Rita Direetor of Student Aetivities, Mrs. Jodi MeLawhorn, Stock Club Members Mike O'Donnell (Oak Lawn, St. Catherine of Alexandria), Victor Luna (Chieago, St. Albert the Great), Erik Landstrom (Oak Lawn, St. Catherine of Alexandria), Jack Pienta (Chieago Beverly, St. Cajetan), Rieh Houlihan (Oak Lawn, St. Catherine of Alexandria) Quinton Gray (South Holland, St. Ailbe), Patriek Henry (Orland Park, Jerling JHS), Enrique Palomo (Oak Lawn, St. Gerald) and Stock Market Club Moderator & St. Rita CFO, Mike Gallagher.

St. Rita Stock Market Club Takes Second Place in the Fall 2011 Chicago Stock Market Competition

Recently, the St. Rita Stock Club won second plaee in the Chicago Fall 2011 Stock Market Game™. A total of 94 teams competed in the competition which ran from mid-September 2011 through Deeember 9, 2011. The St. Rita Stock Cluh members of the winning team are: Victor Luna (Chieago, St. Albert the Great), Peter Cozzi (Westmont, Cass JHS), Jaek Pienta (Chieago Beverly, St. Cajetan), Quentin Gray (South Holland, St. Ailbe), Rieh Houlihan (Oak Lawn, St. Catherine of Alexandria), and Erik Landstrom (Oak Lawn, St. Catherine of Alexandria).

Through computer simulation, each team "invests" $100,000 in publicly traded companies or mutual funds. The St. Rita team finished with $114,547 – a 14.5% return - during this period. This equals an approximate annual return of 58%. The team's top performing stoek was Walt Disney Corporation, which owns ESPN, Disney Theme Parks and the Disney Channel.

The Stock Club, along with moderator Mike Gallagher, holds meetings where they discuss investing basics from several investors ineluding Peter Lynch of The Fidelity Magellan Mutual Fund and Warren Buffet of Berkshire Hathaway. Some of the' basie concepts include: spend less than you make; invest in the stoek market through your employer's 401(k) plan; understand eaeh investment you make; buy great businesses' stoek at a fair price and hold them for the long-term and, finally, try to keep investing eosts low.

The team will be recognized for their outstanding aehievement at an award reception held at the Chieago Board Options Exchange (CBOE) on January 11.

Village View

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FAR SOUTH EDITION

Volume 10 | Number 1 | January 3, 2012

Oak Forest, Orland Park, Tinley Park

Orland approves a new vendor and healthy snacks

by Jan Glaz

An Item of interest was approved at the Village of Orland Park Board of Trustees meeting held on December 19th. Back in September the Village's current vendor supplying coffee and snack machines at various facilities, Commercial Coffee, declined to submit a proposal as requested by the Village. A legal notice, Request for Proposals, was placed in the local paper and on the Village Website. Two responses were received; one from Antique Coffee & Vending Services, Inc., and one from Fox Vending. The Village staff reviewed both vendors and checked references. Based upon the results the staff recommended the contract be awarded to Antique Coffee & Vending Services, Inc. as they offered the lowest prices for various coffee and snack products when factoring in the delivery charge. The snack vending machines will be stocked with a minimum of 25% healthy snacks such as granola bars, baked chips, non-salted cashews/peanuts and a variety of other items. The Board of Trustees approved the contract award for a one-year term with automatic anniversary renewal for (3) successive years unless the Village notifies the vendor in writing (30) days prior to said anniversary that it does not wish to renew the contract. There is approximately $7,400 included in the FY2012 budget for coffee and snacks.

PRICE OF KEEPING FIT: The Recreation Department Sportsplex staff requested approval for the purchase of new fitness equipment. The replacement equipment will assist in attracting new members and reduce out-of-service equipment. The staff also requested waiving the bid process and to purchase the equipment direct from the manufacturer. The total proposed purchase including installation, freight and delivery was approved for a total cost of $22,674.48

Mayor McLaughlin nominated Trustee James Dodge as Mayor Pro Tem for the period through December 2012. The nomination was approved by the council. The election of a Pro Tem is to be accomplished each December.

After the Consent Agenda was approved, the Mayor and Board of Trustees entered into an executive session prior to adjournment concerning an issue stated on the meeting agenda: The appeal of the Business License Revocation Decision hy the Village of Orland Park - Belicoso Cigar Lounge located at 15443 S. 94th Avenue.

Firewood is free and plentiful in Oak Forest

by Jan Glaz

It was announced at the Oak Forest City Council Meeting on December 20th that there is an unending supply of logs available to the public at a time when anything free and valuable is hard to find. But there's a catch, it's not actually firewood but removed trees and some logs can be up to 8ft long: Cutting and splitting is required. The reason for the onslaught of wood is the onslaught of the Emerald Ash Borer infestation. The Tree Removal Project is considered an ongoing expense. Details were provided by Public Works Director Troy Ishler before the City Council approved the Budget Adjustment for the reallocation of MFT Funds. Ishler said the amount of $200,000.00 would be transferred from the Motor Fuel Tax Funds. He stated the funds were needed because the infestation is advancing much more rapidly than anticipated. Please contact the Public Works Department of Oak Forest Village for information as to pick-up and/or drop off the logs.

An important motion carried authorizing the extension of a Line of Credit from MB Financial Bank. Colleen Julian, Finance Director supplied details. She explained that last year was the first time in her tenure that the City established a line of credit at a local bank; it was a $2 million dollar line of credit. Julian said, "At this point we do not owe anything but I think it's necessary to have the line there in the event that we have cash flow shortages, which we do because many of our revenues are dependent on other taxing bodies and there have been delays in the past." The terms of credit are the same and at 3%. Alderman Simon commented that the line is not something the City takes out to pay bills. Julian replied, "It's unfortunate but some of the payers are slower than they have been in the past."

Alderman also agreed to authorize a referendum on Municipal Electrical Aggregation as are many surrounding towns, for the General Election in March 2012.

The vote was unanimous but Alderman Simon was not as comfortable with the concept and would prefer it to be an opt-in process, instead of an opt-out. The program is designed to switch the supply of electricity from ComEd to outside competitive suppliers in an attempt to lower rates. Alderman Simon concluded that he understood the reasoning of the opt-out as a way of gathering more participants.

The last approval before adjournment was the purchase of a five ton dump truck before there would be a 5% increase in price.

An anonymous donor gives to a food pantry

The Orland Township Food Pantry, 14807 S. Ravinia Avenue, was the recent recipient of a substantial $10,000 dollar anonymous donation this holiday season.

The donation was made in conjunction with the Food Pantry's "Holiday 2011 Program", the annual holiday program which provides low-income residents with food, clothing and additional items for the holiday season. Over $17,600 in monetary and food donations was collected this holiday season. The donations, greatly appreciated by Orland Township Supervisor Paul O'Grady, have come at a time when the demand for food is at a record high; the food is distributed as quickly as donations are received, leaving the shelves bare for long periods of time. These enormous donations were made at such a crucial time," said O'Grady. "We appreciate every single person, business or organization who has donated or contributed in any way to "Holiday 2011 Program", a sincere thanks to all.

For additional information about the Orland Township Food Pantry, please call (708) 403-4222 or visit www.orlandtwp.org.

Pictured are (from left to right): Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce President Amy Coghill, Troy Griffiths, CPA; Dr. Greg Cleofe, Wellspring Chiropractic & Rehabilitation, Ltd.; Phil Cassler, American Family Insurance; Denis Corradino, Terry's Lincoln of Orland Park; Ken Castillo, New York Life Insurance; Janelle Baker, Davenport Dental; Leticia Martino, Send Out Cards; Daniel Edeus, CPA and Kevin Staisiunas, Oil Butler.

October Young Professionals

Members of the Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals committee met at Buca di Beppo Restaurant in October for their monthly meeting. The committee meets once a month to discuss various business topics and make valuable connections with other local professionals.

The next Young Professionals meeting will be at Sam Maguire's Irish Pub on January 12 at 5:30 pm. All are welcome to attend. For more information on becoming a member of the Chamber or to RSVP for the January meeting, please call (708) 349-2972 or visit the Chamber's website at www.orlandparkchamber.org. Pictured are (from left to right): Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce President Amy Coghill, Troy Griffiths, CPA; Dr. Greg Cleofe, Wellspring Chiropractic & Rehabilitation, Ltd.; Phil Cassler, American Family Insurance; Denis Corradino, Terry's Lincoln of Orland Park; Ken Castillo, New York Life Insurance; Janelle Baker, Davenport Dental; Leticia Martino, Send Out Cards; Daniel Edeus, CPA and Kevin Staisiunas, Oil Butler.

Village View

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SOUTH SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 13 | Number 1 | January 3, 2012

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

Chicago Ridge approves unleashed dog ordinance

By Matt Mayer

Officials at the Dec 20 Chicago Ridge Board of Trustees meeting approved an unleashed dog ordinance. This ordinance amends a section, article and chapter of the municipal code and states that no owner, keeper or possessor of a dog will allow their dog to roam free through the streets, alleys, or public places as well as any property which doesn't belong to the owner. Any one in violation of this ordinance will be fined.

Other highlights: Village Clerk Chuck Tokar said the village is reporting a decrease in the tax levy. The board approved a tax levy ordinance of $4,706,81 as well as a $5.50 water rate and an $11 a month refuse rate increase effective Jan 1. The City of Chicago has increased the water rate by 25 percent effective Jan 1 with a 15 percent increase in each of the following three years.

Mayor Gene Siegel said that the $3 increase is necessary and directly reflective of the City of Chicago and Oak Lawn water rate increase. Siegel said the village is not charging the rate they pay for water.

St. Rita of Cascia High School Announces Illinois State Scholars

Illinois applauds success of 23 St. Rita of Cascia High School students

St. Rita of Cascia Principal, Mr. Brendan Conroy, is pleased to announce that twenty-three of its 157 seniors St. Rita students have been recognized as 2012-13 Illinois State Scholars.

The prestigious award, given annually by the Illinois Student Assistanee Commission (ISAC), recognized 17,515 high school students from across the state as this year's State Scholars.

Illinois State Scholar winners rank in the top ten percent of high school seniors from 773 different high schools across the state. Selection is based on SAT, ACT and/or Prairie State Achievement Exam scores, and/or class rank at the end of the junior year. High school guidance counselors work in conjunction with ISAC to determine the winners.

St. Rita students include: Cody J. Akel (Evergreen Park, Central JHS), Christopher J. Ciciora (Chicago- Mt. Greenwood, St. Christina) David W. Ciciora (Chicago-Mt. Greenwood, St. Christina), Joseph P. Dorken (Chicago-Ashburn, St. Germaine), Anthony G. Gleason (Oak Lawn, St. Gerald), Jacob R. Golding (Palos Park, Palos South Middle School), Devereux Hall (Chicago-Marquette Park, St. Walter), William T. Henry (Orland Park, Jerling JHS), Connor B. Hughes (Burbank, St. Albert the Great), Martin J. Kelly (Chicago-Mt. Greenwood, St. Christina), Max Kurucar (Oak Lawn, Oak Lawn Hometown Middle School), Matthew R. Marciano (Chicago-Morgan Park, St. Walter), Mark T. Murphy (Burbank, St. Albert the Great), Michael J. Murphy (Evergreen Park, Central JHS), Michael R. Prado (Chicago-Westlawn), Kevin L. Regnier (Chicago-Beverly, St. John Fisher), John E. Reynolds (Chicago-Beverly, St, John Fisher), Craig T. Sabath (Chicago-Brighton Park, Bridgeport Catholic Academy), Peter M. Vanek (Oak Lawn, St. Gerald), Theodore J. Verdun (Homer Glen, Homer JHS), Zachary B. Wagner (Chicago, Mt. Greenwood, St. Christina), Kevin J. Zawaski (Oak Lawn, St. Germaine), and Michael L. Zunica (Palos Park, St. Alexander.)

"Illinois State Scholars represent the best in educational excellence in Illinois," said John Sinsheimer, ISAC Interim Executive Director. "The Commission applauds their success and salutes their families and the teachers at St. Rita of Cascia on this achievement."

While the prestigious recognition does not include a monetary award, recipients are encouraged to cite the honor on applications for college admission and scholarships in addition to completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) after January 1 to determine eligibility for federal and state aid, including Illinois' $420 million need-based Monetary Award Program (MAP).

"Each of twenty-three St. Rita students should take pride in their accomplishment and what it says about their commitment to academic attainment," Sinsheimer concluded.

St. Rita President, Mr. Brendan Conroy added, "As a school, we are incredibly proud of these senior students. They demonstrate day in and day out what it means to be a Ritaman--a man of Truth. Their diligence in school and dedication to their studies shows a great maturity and foresight on their part. Because of their hard work, doors for college opportunities will be open to them. I thank them for their academic leadership at St. Rita of Cascia."

Originally formed as the Illinois State Scholarship Commission in 1957, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission provides students of all ages and backgrounds with the resources and support to obtain financial aid for higher education. A state agency, ISAC has paved the path to postsecondary education with innovative programs for over 50 years. In academic year 2010, the commission helped make college accessible and affordable for Illinois students by administering over 199,000 grants and scholarships totaling over $429 million. More than a half million Illinois State Scholars have been recognized by ISAC since the program's inception.

The Commission provides educational funding via numerous programs such as the Monetary Award Program (MAP), the Illinois Veteran Grant Program and various other grant, scholarship, loan repayment and prepaid tuition programs. Students and families have free access to a wealth of financial aid and college planning information at ISAC's family of websites available at www.collegeillinois.org.

Pappas Sings and Plays Carols at Her Annual Holiday Party

Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas sings and plays carols for guests at her Annual Holiday Party. Several hundred persons from diverse ethnic and religious groups attended Pappas' Holiday Party, which has become a tradition in the Treasurer's Office at the Cook County Building in downtown Chicago. Guests viewed more than 80 Christmas trees decorated by different ethnic groups of Cook County and sang carols as the Treasurer played the keyboard.

Josh Mollema to represent CCHS at the 2012 HOBY State Leadership Seminar

Sophomore Josh Mollema was recently selected by the Chicago Christian High School faculty to represent CCHS at the 2012 Hugh O'Brian Youth (HOBY) State Leadership Seminar in June at Loyola University. High schools are encouraged to select one outstanding 10th grader to attend a HOBY State Seminar in order to develop that student's leadership ability so that he or she may become an effective, ethical leader in his or her school and community.

The qualities necessary to be chosen as a HOBY ambassador include critical and creative thinking skills, strong decision-making skills, courage to speak out for one's beliefs, sensitivity to the needs of others, creative problem solving and a charismatic personality.

Founded in 1958, HOBY's mission is to inspire and develop our global community of youth and volunteers to a life dedicated to leadership, service and innovation. HOBY programs provide youth selected by their schools to participate in unique leadership training, service-learning and motivation-building experiences.

Village View

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B-MAC EDITION

Volume 6 | Number 1 | January 3, 2012

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

MetroSouth Medical Center Offers $40 Heart & Circulation Screenings

Southland residents can start the New Year right by giving themselves the life-saving gift of a healthy heart. MetroSouth Medical Center is making it easy by offering an extensive heart and circulation screening for just $40. The "Healthy Heart & Circulation Exam" is discounted from its original value of more than $250. To make an appointment for a "Healthy Heart & Circulation Exam." please call 708-597-2000, Option 4, ext. 5615.

The heart check-ups will include a series of tests, including an electrocardiogram (EKG)-monitored exercise exam; blood pressure test; and blood work to measure cholesterol, triglycerides and glucose levels. In addition, all participants will have their body mass index measured and receive an ankle brachial index test to identify circulation conditions which can lead to heart attack, stroke and death. Circulation problems in the legs, also referred to as peripheral artery disease (PAD), affect one in 20 Americans over the age of 50. Patients with PAD are at a significantly increased risk for heart attack, stroke and death.

Everyone who is tested will receive a comprehensive 12-page report including an analysis of their cardiac risk factors. All participants are asked to fast for at least 10 hours prior to the exam.

MetroSouth Medical Center (MSMC) is nationally recognized for outstanding cardiac care with state-of-the-art cardiac catheterization and electrophysiology labs that feature advanced technology for all interventional procedures. The medical staff is experienced in all cardiac procedures including open heart surgery and coronary and peripheral stenting.

Midlothian Offers Convenient Electronic Recycling

By Jan Glaz

President Terry Stephens made an announcement at the Village of Midlothian Board of Trustee Meeting on December 28th, that as of January 1st 2012, a new law takes effect regulating electronic waste disposal. State Mandate requires recycling of any and all electrical items including batteries. The village, in an effort to help residents comply with the new State Mandate, has established a drop off service that will be held in conjunction with Vet Tech, a training organization for Veterans returning from the military. The veterans are trained to repair and update computers and make them available to charitable organizations. There will be no charge to those looking to recycle items and VetTech Recyclers will not charge the village for the collection. The Electronic Waste Drop Off Center is located at the Midlothian Fire Station II, 14700 S. Homan Ave., E-Waste drop off hours are 4:00p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

VILLAGE THEME: Mayor Stephens introduced a request which was accepted by Council for permission to authorize a proposal for a Streetscape Design Plan in the Village Center. The Mayor mentioned that the city would ask that as parcels of property in the Village Center are developed that they enhance the Parkways and fit into a motif set in the downtown area and in order to have a motif the Village would need to create a plan.

Residents may soon be able to vote on the issue of Aggregation of Electrical Service, which would allow the village to automatically opt-in residents and businesses, unless they specifically request to opt-out, into a program that seeks out bids for an electric supplier offering a lower rate than that offered by ComEd. The first step has been taken; an Ordinance was approved to place the question on January 3rd for the Primary Election ballot, March 20, 2012. Village Attorney J. Daniel McGrath described the procedure saying that this ordinance merely puts the question on the ballot to allow the residents to vote on the issue. If the residents vote no, then the village will not be authorized to place it on the ballot, a yes vote would allow the Village to move forward. A public hearing would be scheduled and the hiring of energy experts in order to place it on the March 20th ballot.

A final item of note was offered by Mayor Stephens pertaining to an important change in the hours of the Circuit Court serving municipal districts 2 thru 6 as adopted by the Board of Commissioners on November 18th, 2011. The suburban Court House's will no longer be open on weekends and holidays due to reductions in the 2012 budget.

District 130 Honors Graduates of D.A.R.E. Program

Fifth graders at Whittier and Paul Revere Intermediate Schools in Blue Island took the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) pledge to stay off drugs as they graduated from the nine week program in mid December. This year millions of students around the world will benefit from D.A.R.E., the highly acclaimed program that gives students the skills they need to avoid involvement in drugs, gangs, and violence. Founded in Los Angeles in 1983, D.A.R.E. is a police officer-led series of classroom lessons that teaches students how to resist peer pressure and live productive drug and violence-free lives.

Led by Officer LaSalle King of the Blue Island Police Department, the program taught students the importance of making good decisions and staying drug free in order to become successful adults. The requirements to graduate from the D.A.R.E. program include participation, completing a workbook, and writing an essay. King also stressed the importance of parent involvement and reinforcing the program at home.

Dist 130 PRI DARE Graduation: D.A.R.E. Character Award winners (from left) Carolina Martinez, Joel Herrera, Ailyn Gallardo, Yajaira DeLaRosa and Nicholas Lopez display their certificates with Officer LaSalle King after the December 16th D.A.R.E. graduation ceremony at Paul Revere Intermediate School.

Dist 130 Whittier DARE Graduation: Whittier School principal Alma Cano (right) poses with a group of fifth graders and Officer LaSalle King (back row) at the end of the D.A.R.E. graduation ceremony on the morning of December 15.

At both graduation ceremonies, essay winners read their winning pieces aloud, a select group of students were chosen by their peers to receive the D.A.R.E. Character Award, and the presentation of certificates capped off each ceremony. Parents, Board members and administrators were also on hand to congratulate the graduates.

"There is no greater reward any officer can receive," said King when addressing the graduates about his experience teaching the D.A.R.E. program. "This is the best assignment I've ever had."

Cook County School District 130 serves nearly 4,100 students at thirteen school sites. The district serves portions of the communities of: Alsip, Blue Island, Crestwood and Robbins.

Chicago Health Care Non-Profit Makes Impact for the Uninsured Across America

A new Chicago based health-care non-profit is making and impact for people across America with no insurance. Project HUGS (Helping Uninsured Get Surgery) opened their doors in July of 2011 partnering with Advanced Ambulatory Surgical Center in Chicago. Basic care, quality of life treatment and surgical procedures remain out of reach for thousands who are in desperate need of such aide. The HUGS leadership team have been busy already becoming members along with a $10 Million Dollar Project HUGS commitment to former President Bill Clinton's Clinton Global Initiative.

Project HUGS had the opportunity to spend time with First Lady Michelle Obama to discuss their commitments to the new health-care reform being done in our country. Being an organization who believes in offering surgery to uninsured patients around the nation, Project HUGS shares Michelle Obama's belief that while a new health-care system will not be perfect, it should be implemented.

"We are honored to have had the opportunity to share time with the First Lady and look forward to making an impact in the surgical field that helps those in need when they need it most. We are going to change many lives in a major way in 2012," commented Brij Desai, Project HUGS COO.

Project HUGS and Michelle Obama share a commitment for health-care and much needed benefits for the uninsured. This commitment fueled an influx of applications for surgery from those in need across America.

Project HUGS has also attracted the attention of Chicago Blackhawk's star Duncan Keith and his wife Kelly-Rae, founders of the Keith Relief Foundation, an organization founded in 2011, which is dedicated to helping those in financial struggles with medical needs. These two organizations have recently partnered together and hope to change the lives of people both in Chicago and around our nation.

With the current state of the economy, more and more families are living without the security of health insurance as well as bankruptcy and home foreclosure. These troubles have encouraged both the Keith Relief Foundation and Project HUGS to make a valiant effort in alleviating some of the economic strain on families when it comes to medical costs.

"It is truly an honor to be one of the two non-profits the Keith Relief Foundation have chosen as benefactors. Duncan and Kelly-Rae have gone above and beyond to help Project HUGS provide to those in need both here in Chicago and across the nation." commented Project HUGS founder Dr. Sev Hrywnak. "We are thankful to have the opportunity to help those who have been waiting on life-changing surgeries due to lack of insurance. We hope to give many people their lives back in 2012."

Project HUGS' Board of Directors is a venerable who's who of leadership from across the country. From a New York State Senator James S. Alesi, to Scranton, PA's Moses Taylor Hospital Director of Pediatrics Dr. Stanley W. Blondek, and from Mukesh "Mike" Patel, Former White House Commissioner under President Bill Clinton, to Chicago based communication strategist and publicist Christopher Foltz.

Project HUGS also began their first annual toy drive this holiday season to give back to those in need around the Chicago area around the holidays. The organization is providing special items to children in households who cannot afford to give their kids items on their wish-lists for the holidays. The toys are still being collected at the Project HUGS' Harlem Avenue office located in Chicago and will then be donated to various local churches and community organizations.

"The holidays are a time for families and celebration. In addition to giving back through surgery here in under-insured America, we want to make sure as many families across Chicago can celebrate the holidays with their children. Since most toy drives end around Christmas, we will continue ours through the month of January 2012 so we can add as much joy to the lives of children throughout the year," said Joanna Brzostowska, Co-Chairman of Project HUGS.

To get involved or learn more about Project HUGS, call 855-FOR-HUGS or visit www.ProjectHUGS.org. For media inquires please contact Chris Foltz at 312-772-4865 or by email at chris@christopherfoltz.com.

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation honors Lech Walęsa

Lech Walęsa, Nobel Peace Prize recipient and former president of Poland, will be honored with the Lincoln Leadership Prize by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation at a benefit dinner at 5:30 pm. on Thursday, Feb. 9, 2012, at The Four Seasons Hotel, 120 E. Delaware Place in Chicago.

Lech Walęsa

An electrician by trade, the charismatic leader in 1980 founded Solidarity, the Soviet bloc's first independent trade union. Walęsa was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1983 and in 1990 became the first democratically elected leader in Polish postwar history, a post held for 5 years.

Benefit dinner co-chairs are Gregory C. Case, president and CEO, Aon Corp.; Frank M. Clark, chairman and CEO, ComEd; Ellen Costello, CEO and U.S. Country Head, BMO Financial Corp.; Chaz Hammel-Smith Ebert, executive officer, The Ebert Company; Carrie J. Hightman, executive vice president and CLO, NiSource, Inc.; Paul V. La Schiazza, president, AT&T Illinois; Raymond F. McCaskey, CEO (retired), Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois; and Gregory D. Wasson, president and CEO, Walgreen Company.

Three levels of sponsorship, which include a table for 10, are available: platinum at $50,000, gold at $25,000 and silver at $10,000. Individual tickets for the dinner are $500. Proceeds benefit the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum Foundation.

As of Dec. 15, 2010, Robert and Alice Campbell were platinum sponsors. Gold sponsors include Aon, AT&T, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Illinois, BMO Financial Corp., McGuire Woods LLP, NiSource, Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom, Walgreen Company and Wintrust Financial Corp.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Retired U. S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, astronaut James Lovell and the late TV host Tim Russert are the previous recipients of the Lincoln Leadership Prize.

Established in 2006 by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation, the Lincoln Leadership Prize recognizes outstanding leaders in fields as diverse government, business, science, journalism and the creative arts. Accepting the responsibilities imposed by history and demanded by conscience, these individuals' lifetime of service in the Lincoln tradition is marked by great strength of character, individual conscience and an unwavering commitment to the defining principles of democracy.

For more information about sponsorships and to purchase tables of 10 or benefit dinner tickets, please call 312-553-2000. To learn more about the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, please visit www.alplm.org.

Orland Township Hosts Free Health Services

On "Wellness Wednesday" on January 25, February 22 and March 28.

Orland Township is hosting "Wellness Wednesday" on Wednesday, January 25, 2012. Wednesday, February 22, 2012 and Wednesday, March 28, 2012. "Wellness Wednesday" is held in the Orland Township Activity Center at 14807 S. Ravinia Avenue, every fourth Wednesday of the month from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

On "Wellness Wednesday", residents may have their blood pressure and blood sugar checked by a registered medical professional. A basic cholesterol screening is offered for a $5.00 charge and the test requires a 9 to 12 hour fast.

Free hearing screenings by Sertoma Speech and Hearing Center are also available on this day; an appointment is necessary.

"Wellness Wednesday" is a service that is offered to residents of Orland Township, in partnership with local medical professionals. The "Wellness Wednesday" program and other services delivered by Orland Township provide residents with the opportunity to keep themselves healthy and happy through preventive care.

Oftentimes, people take good health for granted and it's not until illness strikes that a person realizes how important a healthy and functioning body is. To make a hearing appointment, call Orland Township at (708) 403-4222. To make an appointment for cardiac health risk screenings, call (773) 401-6312.

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We have found that through the years of publishing the readers are interested in general information and also local happenings within their community. Therefore because we are fully electronic, we will not be accepting faxed or mailed news releases.

Falcon Investors, LLC Enters Into Purchase Agreement with a Subsidiary of Community Health Systems, Inc. for the Sale of MetroSouth Medical Center

Transaction Will Bring New Capital and Resources as MetroSouth Medical Center Continues to Provide High-Quality Healthcare for the Region

Falcon Investors, LLC and Transition Healthcare Company, through their affiliate MSMC Investors, LLC, has entered into a definitive agreement for the sale of MetroSouth Medical Center to a subsidiary of Community Health Systems, Inc.

Falcon Investors and its management partner, Transition Healthcare Company acquired MetroSouth Medical Center in 2008 to save the hospital from financial ruin and imminent closure, preserving quality hospital services for the residents of Blue Island and surrounding communities and saving the jobs of 1,200 employees. With a swift infusion of capital, restructuring expertise and top hospital management, Falcon and Transition achieved an impressive turnaround of hospital operations, restoring financial stability, successfully recruiting physicians, and increasing the quality of care available for patients. During this period, the hospital converted to all private rooms, implemented a hospital-wide electronic medical record to further enhance patient care, and broadened its outreach through health clinics in eight surrounding communities.

At the same time that these advancements were occurring, shifts in the U.S. economy and healthcare environment changed the long-term outlook for what could be accomplished under the current private ownership model, prompting MSMC Investors to consider a sale of the hospital to a larger healthcare operator with the scale and resources required to continue moving the hospital forward.

"The leadership of MSMC engaged in a thoughtful process to ensure the best possible future for our hospital and determined that affiliating with a larger organization offered our greatest opportunity for long-term success and growth," said Falcon Investors chief executive officer David Reis.

"In Community Health Systems, we found an exceptionally managed, highly-regarded national organization with vast resources to support the next steps in the hospital's progression," added Lawrence Krule, Falcon Investors executive vice president and chief restructuring officer of MetroSouth Medical Center.

Benefits of the transaction for MetroSouth Medical Center include:

- The continuation of all essential services at the hospital, including an open and accessible emergency department;
- The infusion of at least $20 million in equipment upgrades, information systems, infrastructure improvements and working capital at MSMC in the first five years after the transaction;
- The hiring of substantially all active employees in good standing at the time the transaction is complete, offering employees the same position and rate of pay, and recognizing years of service;
- The continuation of relationships with medical staff physicians;
- The continuation of charity care policies consistent with those currently in place;
- Guidance by a local board of trustees comprised of members of the medical staff and community leaders.

Enrique Beckmann, M.D., Ph.D. will continue as chief executive officer of the hospital, helping to ensure management continuity through the ownership transition and to continuing his leadership of the hospital's strategic growth initiatives.

"Partnership with a hospital system the size and caliber of CHS is an exciting development that brings unparalleled advantage to our hospital, medical staff, employees and community," said Dr. Beckmann, chief executive officer and chief medical officer of MetroSouth Medical Center. "In addition to its financial strength, CHS is highly regarded for its physician recruitment successes, strong clinical quality and customer service initiatives, group purchasing power, and the best practices it has developed in operating hospitals across the country."

Transition Managing Member, Thomas Reardon said, "This transaction is in the best interest of everyone involved and will allow the quality operations of MetroSouth to continue in the hands of an experienced, committed hospital company."

Through its affiliates, Community Health Systems currently operates over 130 hospitals, including seven in the state of Illinois.

The transaction is subject to certain closing requirements, including a Certificate of Need (CON) from the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board. The CON hearing is expected to take place in late February 2012, with the transaction closing shortly after the CON is approved.

About MetroSouth Medical Center

MetroSouth Medical Center, formerly known as St. Francis Hospital, a Joint Commission certified hospital is known for exceptional patient care, most especially for its cardiac and OB/GYN services. The full-service hospital has recently opened 10 community health centers, a Heartburn Clinic, an Adult & Senior Outpatient Health Center and formed a partnership with WorkRight for occupational health. In addition, the hospital features 100% private rooms, now uses electronic medical records and continues to lead with new technology, including a stroke robot/telemedicine partnership with Rush University Medical Center, IntsyMeds prescription vending machine in the emergency department and an MRI-compatible pacemaker. The hospital delivers more than 1,600 babies each year and provides patients a Level 2+ birthing center, 24/7 obstetrical coverage, high-risk maternal-fetal specialists and certified nurse midwives. MetroSouth was recently named to the U.S. News & World Report list of "Best Hospitals in Chicago" for 2011-2012 and rated by CareChex as one of the "Top 100 Hospitals in the Nation for Medical Excellence" for 2012.

About Falcon Investors, LLC

Located in Harrison, NY, Falcon Investors is devoted to investing capital and professional expertise in healthcare related opportunities, including hospitals and nursing homes. Falcon Investors is owned by entities controlled by David Reis, who is a nationally known developer-owner of senior care living facilities. Mr. Reis has developed or bought for his own portfolio retirement oriented properties spanning the continuum of care from nursing home and assisted living facilities to full service continuing care retirement communities. www.FalconInvestors.com

About Transition Healthcare Company

Transition Healthcare Company, LLC ("THC") is a hospital management company with offices in Franklin, TN. The management team at THC provides a unique blend of experienced hospital turnaround and management expertise, access to financial resources, as well as the ability to act quickly and discreetly. In addition to the Members of THC, the company has a deep bench of healthcare executives and clinicians experienced in hospital turnaround and interim management.

About Community Health Systems, Inc.

Located in the Nashville, Tenn., suburb of Franklin, Community Health Systems, Inc. is one of the largest publicly-traded hospital companies in the United States and a leading operator of general acute care hospitals in non-urban and mid-size markets throughout the country. The organization's affiliates own, operate or lease more than 130 hospitals in 29 states. Its hospitals offer a broad range of inpatient and surgical services, outpatient treatment and skilled nursing care. Shares in Community Health Systems, Inc. are traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "CYH."

State Rep. Kelly Burke Participates in Advocate Christ Hospital Forum on Healthcare and Nursing Issues

In an effort to increase funding for nurses and make hospital services more readily available, state Rep. Kelly Burke (D-Evergreen Park) recently participated in a Legislative Forum on Health and Nursing Issues sponsored by Advocate Christ Hospital and Medical Center. Topics discussed by Burke, other legislators, and the nursing and medical staff included declining Medicaid reimbursements, defining charity care for consideration of a hospital's tax-exempt status, and funding for nursing students and nurse educators.

"It is vital that we work to make sure Illinois is providing affordable health care options and that we work with all the stakeholders to provide consistent, quality service," Burke said. "This forum provided an opportunity to hear directly from local registered nurses and physicians about the current issues facing their professions and what resources are still needed. I am grateful for the feedback from the medical professionals and fellow legislators. I encourage anyone with questions or concerns to contact my office."

Burke's 36th Representative District includes all or parts of Oak Lawn, Evergreen Park, Chicago Ridge, Hometown, Hickory Hills, Palos Hills and Chicago's 18th, 19th, and 21st wards. For more information please contact Burke's office at (708) 425-0571 or e-mail her at KellyB@ilga.gov.

Congressman Dan Lipinski

Lipinski: Once Short-Term Bill is Approved, Congress Must Quickly Pass a Longer-Term Bill Extending the Payroll Tax Cut and Unemployment Insurance and Preventing a Medicare Cut that Threatens Seniors' Access to Their Doctors

Congressman Dan Lipinski (IL-3) released the following statement on the decision by House Republicans to support the Senate's short-term extension of the payroll tax cut and unemployment insurance and move forward with negotiating a longer-term extension. The Senate bill also prevents a Medicare cut that would threaten seniors' access to their doctors.

"House Republicans made the right decision to end the standoff and prevent the middle class from being hit by a tax increase and the loss of unemployment benefits, as well as prevent seniors from losing access to their doctors," Rep. Lipinski said. "As I said before, I believe Congress should have been able to agree on a full-year deal to extend the payroll tax cut and unemployment insurance and prevent a harmful cut to Medicare. But with the Senate having failed to produce such a bill and refusing to return to Washington, its short-term extension was the only way to avoid a tax hike and a drastic reduction in unemployment insurance at a time when the middle class is still suffering. What matters now is that both the House and Senate work together to quickly finalize a longer-term deal. We cannot afford more political posturing on this issue that takes up valuable time and prevents Washington from focusing on promoting job creation and dealing with the many issues still on its agenda. Among other things, Congress should do everything possible to pass the overdue transportation bill, which will create hundreds of thousands of jobs in the short term and build infrastructure projects that cut down on congestion, enhance safety, and boost long-term economic efficiency and growth.

"Congress has got to stop bickering and kicking the can down the road on important matters as Americans continue to suffer. As I told those who attended my town hall meeting last month, I am as fed up with Congress as they are. The House is getting little done for the American people and the Senate has largely ceased to function. But I will continue to fight as I always have for the middle-class workers and retirees of the Third District and the nation."

(From left to right) Oak Forest Public Relations Coordinator Chrissy Maher, Oak Forest Community Development Assistant Director Dave Newquist and Oak Forest-Crestwood Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Kim Malecky-Iles accept a $3,259 marketing grant from Chicago Southland CVB President and CEO Jim Garrett, CDME.

City receives $3,259 local tourism grant to promote Oak Forest Fleadh

Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau grant helps market Fleadh Oak Forest, Illinois – The City of Oak Forest recently received a $3,259 Local Tourism Marketing Grant from the Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau to promote the Oak Forest Fleadh on Saturday, March 10 on Cicero Avenue between 151st Street and 159th Street. The event, which celebrates Irish culture and tradition, includes customer appreciation celebrations at local businesses from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., an open bike ride from 10 to 11 a.m., a 5K run at 8:30 a.m., a family parade at 11 a.m., and a pub and restaurant open house from 5 p.m. to 3 a.m. The $3,259 grant will be used to create and place ads in Chicago magazine, Chicago Athlete magazine and Irish American News and a billboard on 180/94.

"We're changing things up a little this year by reversing the direction of the parade," said Oak Forest-Crestwood Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Kim Malecky-Iles. "The parade will kick off at 157th Street instead of 151st Street so that we can use the Gateway Development at 159th and Cicero Avenue as our staging area. By centralizing the 5K and parade staging areas, we're hoping to make things more efficient for participants and organizers."

The Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau distributes up to $46,000 annually to Southland municipalities and not-for-profit organizations to promote events designed to draw visitors into the Chicago Southland region for overnight stays. These visitors contribute substantially to the Southland economy through stays in regional hotels, dining at local restaurants, shopping, recreational activities, and needed services travelers require, such as gas, oil and sundry items.

"The Local Tourism Grant program is a way for the Bureau to extend its marketing reach," said Jim Garrett, CDME, President and CEO of the Chicago Southland CVB. "The marketing efforts by our communities – in addition to marketing efforts by the Bureau – help us better promote the many festivals and events and area attractions throughout the Southland to potential visitors."

For more information about the Fleadh, please visit www.oak-forest.org, e-mail oakforestfleadh@oak-forest.org or call 708-687-4600.

21ST Century Community Learning Center Grant Awarded to Nathan Hale Middle School

Nathan Hale Middle School, in partnership with Metropolitan Family Services, has recently been awarded a $150,000 multi-year grant by the Illinois State Board of Education to create a 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) at the Crestwood middle school. The three-year grant will provide $150,000 per year for increased out-of-school opportunities for students including recreational activities, academic support in concentrated disciplines, life skills education, and increased parental support for Nathan Hale Middle School families. Parental involvement in the activities will be encouraged and key to the program's success.

A pep rally for students will be held January 9 during lunch periods as well as a Family Carnival on January 11 from 4:30 to 7 pm in order to generate interest in the programs. Activities and services planned for students include homework help, intramural athletics and fitness classes, arts, crafts and games, science experiments and a variety of clubs, including an E-Book Club. Programs for parents ranging from computer literacy to resume writing to fitness classes, including Zumba, are also being arranged. Activities are tentatively scheduled to begin on January 17 and will be offered after school and during school breaks, including summer, and programs will be added based on survey results from students, parents and staff.

"We have a great opportunity here to work with Metropolitan Family Services to provide our students and their families with after school programs that meet their needs. Kate Wohlgemuth and Nyela Malone have been instrumental in bringing the 21st Century Community Learning Center program to Nathan Hale Middle School. Our goal is to provide quality after school programs that will help our students develop and grow academically and socially," said John Dudzik, principal of Nathan Hale Middle School.

In order to get the initial programs up and running, a full-time coordinator was hired and has begun working to identify the needs of the staff, students and parents. Resource coordinator Trina Thornton-Franklin will oversee the program at Nathan Hale Middle School to ensure the array of programs and activities being offered meet the needs of the school community.

"Metropolitan Family Services enters into a partnership with Nathan Hale Middle School with great excitement and we look forward to bringing the agency's 150 years of experience to Hale Middle in providing high quality programs during out-of-school time. The partnership will bring top-notch programs which enrich students' educational experiences and achievement, support families, and strengthen the community," said Nyela Malone, program supervisor at Metropolitan Family Services in Chicago.

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative is the only federal funding source dedicated exclusively to after school programs. The No Child Left Behind Act reauthorized 21st CCLC in 2002, transferring the administration of the grants from the U.S. Department of Education to the State Education Agencies.

Cook County School District 130 serves nearly 4,100 students at thirteen school sites. The district serves portions of the communities of: Alsip, Blue Island, Crestwood and Robbins.

Horoscope of the Moment

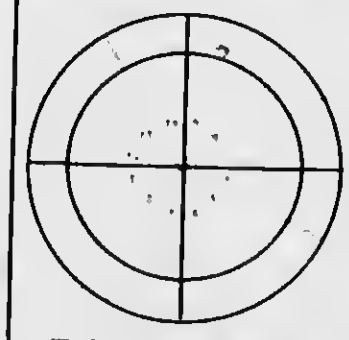
By Jan Glaz

My last article in the December 20th issue of Village View promised readers a window into an exciting branch of Astrology formally named Hoary, or the horoscope of the moment. It's a refreshing look away from personal horoscopes and it's very useful in the scope of everyday occurrences. Many answers are discovered immediately. I was planning to give examples from my research files when suddenly the spirit of astrology decided otherwise.

If we're searching for answers or insight into a pressing situation the information inherent within a 'Moment Chart' is beyond value. How does it work? An important question is asked, the date and the time of the question are noted, and then a horoscope is calculated. If the matter has gathered enough energy to be born into our reality the chart is alive with knowledge. If a question is not viable and/or circumstances are in flux, deciphering is prohibited.

On the evening of December 27, 2011, I was watching a movie when suddenly everything turned black. I went to the window and saw that the East side of my subdivision, and the subdivision adjacent to mine were in a blackout. Frustrated, and waiting in the dark, I remembered that my computer ran on battery. I was concerned because the heating system required electricity; how long will it be out? The time was 11:39 p.m., I calculated a chart. WOW! LIGHTS SHOULD BE ON SOON! As I was shutting down my computer... the lights came on! The diagram below reveals the mechanics of the system of Hoary.

The Solid Cross lines are the Angles of the Circle: Angles indicate action. The sign of Aries, fast action, was on the horizontal angle line, on the right side of the circle. The planet Uranus refers to Electricity and is known for sudden unexpected events; the planet was about 1 degree below the angle line and in the sign of Aries. The chart screamed speed! Using the degree of the angle for timing, I estimated that the power would return within 2-4 minutes, when the Angle bumps into Uranus. A chart drawn for the time after the power came on would show the planet Uranus above the heavy Angle Line.



Planet Uranus was beneath Angle – Degree of Angle in time: 2"50'

To learn Astrology or request a consultation contact me via email: Astrojan10@Yahoo.com

Thinking of advertising for 2012?

Call 312-624-8996 or email vvnew@sbcglobal.net, for our 2012 Media Kit.

Registration is open to all at St. Albert the Great in Burbank

St. Albert the Great Preschooler Jessica Novak was the first student in school to bring an ornament for the school Christmas Tree. St. Albert the Great Catholic School in Burbank invites you to share a family ornament with us and to register your child for the 2012/ 2013 school year. For information, call the school office at 708-424-7757.

Mount Assisi Academy presents educational program for parents of Junior High Girls

Mount Assisi Academy is hosting a family focused program for parents and junior high girls entitled, "Adolescent Independence Under Your Roof", led by professional experts. Please plan to attend on Wednesday, January 11, 2012 at 6:00p.m. until 8:00p.m. at the high school.

Parent and peer discussions will focus on academic independence, technology and privacy and house expectations. This program is free and includes dinner for all participants. Babysitting will be available for children of participants under 6th grade.

Leading the January 11th program "Adolescent Independence Under Your Roof" is Director Guidance, Lisa A. Banner, M.A., L.C.P.C. Banner who possesses a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Webster University in St. Louis, MO, a Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology from The Chicago School of Psychology in Chicago, IL and a School Counselor Certification from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, IL.

Banner is also a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (L.C.P.C.) from the National Board of Certified Counselors. Ms. Banner has been providing counseling to adolescents, adults, families, and groups for over 10 years. She has extensive training and experience with conflict resolution, ADD/ADHD, conduct disorders, chronic mental illness, depression, and anxiety.

Prior to joining the MAA family she worked in a residential facility for adults with chronic mental illness, therapeutic day schools, and private practice. She's joined our family at Mt. Assisi Academy to help your daughter succeed in life and provide support to the families.

Chicago Ridge Library is hosting a job networking program

The Chicago Ridge Public Library, 10400 S. Oxford Ave. is hosting a job networking program on Monday, January 9th at 7:00 p.m.

The presenter, Jody Eriksen, a Certified Professional Career Coach, will show you the tools needed to network. Finding a job in today's economy can be tough, yet there are opportunities if you know where to look.

Call the library at 708-423-7753 to register for this program.

Blue Island mentions their local events

A full day celebrating Blue Island history! Special presentations, exhibits, tours, kids scavenger hunt and much more.
When: Sunday, January 15
Where: Blue Island Historical Society (Albee House), 13018 S. Maple Ave., 708-371-8546

The Blue Island Chamber of Commerce hosts Deputy Chief Phil Contreras, who will discuss our state-of-the-art 911 center, as well as how new developments in technology aid our police force. Gita Rampersand will report on the Model Community Program and we'll have updates from various department heads.

Free admission, coffee and rolls served, call 708-388-1000 to reserve. Tuesday, January 17, 2012 at 8 a.m. East Annex, 2434 Vermont St., Blue Island

Worth Township announces programs for January

The Worth Township Senior Knitting Class will be starting again on Thursday, January 5, 2012 and run for 12 weeks with a nominal fee. The classes will be held in the Worth Township Center , 11601 S. Pulaski, Alsip . Please call (708) 371-2900 Ext, 28 to register or if you have any questions. A minimum amount of students are needed for the class to start.

The Worth Township Senior Room will be offering an Exercise Class. It will start January 4, 2012 and it will be held on Wednesdays from 9:30 am to 10:15. There will be a nominal fee. The classes will be held in the Worth Township Center, 11601 S. Pulaski, Alsip Please call (708) 371-2900, Ext 28 if you are interested in this class. A minimum amount of students are needed for the class to go. The Class will go for 8 weeks. stel

Come join the Worth Township Seniors for Fusion class starting January 4, 2012.

This class is a combination of three "mind-body" exercises: 1 is Yoga, 1 is Pilate and 1 is Qi Gong they are done seated or standing with slow gentle movements and stretching, deep breathing and relaxation to help build strength and flexibility.

If you are interested the fees are $25.00 for Worth Township residents and $30.00 for non-residents. The class is 10:30am to 11:15am on Wednesdays for 8 weeks.

It is held at the Worth Township Center 11601 S. Pulaski in Alsip and of course call if you have question or if you would like to register.

Greenwood School children shopped for Christmas

Kindergartners Mariah Dodd (center) and Alexandra Munguia-Mueller wait to have their presents wrapped by secretary Elena Rodriguez at Greenwood School in Blue Island during the school's PBIS Holiday Shop. Parent volunteer Moyra Jones (back) assisted children as they shopped and purchased gifts for their family using "Reindeer Tracks", which were earned by being respectful, responsible and safe.

Oak Lawn Children's Museum announces extended hours

Change in Extended Hours: The Children's Museum in Oak Lawn is happy to announce extended hours will continue into 2012! The change will begin in January and the museum will be open on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month through April 27th. The museum is changing its late night from Thursday to Friday.

New admission program for the museum: The Museum Admission Card allows you to purchase 10 admissions for just $5 each. The card sells for $50, which is a 17% savings off of single ticket admission. This is a great way for members to save, also, when they bring friends to the museum.

Join us for "The Museum Doctor is in" Program: January 11th, Advocate Hope Children's Hospital staff has partnering with the museum to present a series of educational topics that teach children about their bodies and promote wellness.

A visiting Senior pediatric resident doctor leads these activities, and gives children a great opportunity to learn from and interact with a pediatrician in a welcoming and positive, non-medical and non-intimidating environment.

This program takes place around 11:00 on the second floor. It is available to all visitors, no registration is necessary.

Get a jump start on your future at PEACE!

Personal Tour Night
Jan. 12th from 6-7:30 p.m.
Take a personal tour to see why Peace was the right choice for us and will be the right choice for YOU!

Entrance Exam
Sat., Jan. 14th from 8 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.
Visit www.queenofpeacehs.org to learn more about the exam.
A Finonciol Aid presentotion will be offered for the parents of eighth grade girls testing at Peace during the exom.

Queen of Peace High School
7659 S. Linder Ave., Burbank, IL (708) 458-7600 queenofpeacehs.org

A Catholic, college preparatory, all-girls campus sponsored by the Dominicans of Sinsinawa

Winter Family Day/Open House
Saturday, January 28, 2012
Celebrate Groundhog Day with Wilson
10:00 am—4:00 pm Admission $4.00 Hot Food, Hot Chocolate, Bonfire
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Moraine Valley offering CPR, first aid classes

Moraine Valley Community College is offering a Heart Saver First Aid with CPR course and CPR for Health Professionals courses during the spring 2012 semester. All classes will be offered on the main campus, 9000 W. College Pkwy., Palos Hills.

The quick action of an employee with training in basic first aid or CPR could save a life and can save companies from potential liabilities arising from health-related incidents that occur on their premises. Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards also require many businesses to have employees trained in basic first aid and CPR.

During the Heart Saver First Aid with CPR course, which can be customized to meet a company's needs, students will learn about basic breathing and cardiac emergencies, bleeding care and sudden illnesses and injuries. Participants will earn an American Heart Association First Aid card.

This course will be offered on Saturday, March 24, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The cost is $99. Moraine Valley also offers several CPR for Health Professionals classes for new healthcare students or current professionals who need to maintain their credentials. A list of dates and times can be found on the college's website or in the spring class schedule.

For more information regarding either course, contact the Corporate, Community and Continuing Education department at (708) 974-5735 or visit morainevalley.edu/ccce. Registration is now underway. To search and register for noncredit courses visit morainevalley.edu and click on Register for Noncredit courses under Hot Topics. Click on Prospective Student, then Search Register and Pay for Non-Credit classes. To register by phone, call (708) 974-2110.

Village View staff would like to extend our sympathy to the family of Barbara A. Hernandex

Barbara A. Hernandex, 3rd Distict Historian, Life Member of the Johnson Phelps VFW, Ladies Auxiliary #5220, NWALKAO MOCA #42 and the Oak Lawn Atlethic Club. Barbara passed away early December 28, 2011

Monday January 2, was the visitation from at Zimmerman Sanderman Funeral Home, 5200 West 95th Street, Oak Lawn, The wake services is Tuesday, January 3, 2012 at 11:00 a.m.

Abraham Lincoln Cemetery, Elwood, IL. The Johnson Phelps Ladies Auxiliary will conduct memorial services at 7:00 p.m. Expressions of sympathy and condolences can be sent to her brother:

John Schroeder, 9523 South 54th Avenue, Oak Lawn. On behalf of the 3rd District Ladies Auxiliary & Johnson Phelps Auxiliary officers and chairman extend their deepest condolences to the family.

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Get a jump start on your future at PEACE!

Personal Tour Night
Jan. 12th from 6-7:30 p.m.
Take a personal tour to see why Peace was the right choice for us and will be the right choice for YOU!

Entrance Exam
Sat., Jan. 14th from 8 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.
Visit www.queenofpeacehs.org to learn more about the exam.
A Financial Aid presentation will be offered for the parents of eighth grade girls testing at Peace during the exam.

Queen of Peace High School
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Dr. Christopher Pallotto

Your friendly Dentist speaks

Dentists don't deny that the profession centers on teeth care provide the many benefits of healthy teeth. But good oral health has tie-ins to systemic health.

Oak Lawn dentist Dr. Christopher Pallotto, D.D.S., says the benefits of good oral health are part of your overall health. He points out that studies, including one done-by CNN and Men's Health magazine in 2007, show a lack of knowledge about the benefits of regularly visiting the dentist.

About one-third of the men in the study had not had a dental check-up in the past year. Dr. Pallotto says oral care and regular visits to the dentist have many rewards and are good for your overall health. Periodontal (gum) disease has been linked to heart disease, stroke and respiratory disease in medical studies and 80 percent of Americans have it.

The bacteria present in gum disease may trigger blood clots, which can contribute to heart attack or stroke. Gum may worsen osteoporosis. And women with gum disease are seven times more likely to have a baby born too early and too small. Bleeding gums especially during brushing is one of the first signs of gum disease but visiting a dentist and practicing good oral hygiene at home can treat it. Oral cancer occurs most often in those 40 and older. Early detection is critical to survival. The five-year survival rate is only 50 percent when detected late. Oral cancer in women has doubled over the last 50 years.

A great smile, Dr. Pallotto said, is reward enough for visiting the dentist regularly. But regular visits to the dentists pay dividends for your overall health no matter your age or gender, he added.

Oak Lawn Library announce their programs

College Aid Info from the ISAC Corps

College-bound students and their families are invited to meet with representatives from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) Corps on Tuesday, Jan. 17 from 6-8 p.m. at the Oak Lawn Public Library.

The ISAC offers a comprehensive array of programs and services. In Illinois, ISAC administers most of the key state and federal grant, scholarship, loan and prepaid tuition programs available to postsecondary students. For additional information about ISAC, visit www.collegezone.com. ISAC will also be on-site at the Oak Lawn Library on Tuesdays, Jan. 24 and 31 and Feb. 7 from 6-8 p.m.

The Green Teams

Start off 2012 on a green note with environmentalist Emily Kenny! The Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Ave., will host a free program for students in grades 1-5 titled "Power Pack (Electricity)" on Tuesday, Jan. 17 from 4-5 p.m. Through exploring new ways to protect their environment, teams will create action plans, play games, make crafts and receive completion badges. Advance registration required.

Library Hosts Youth Chess Club

Registration begins Jan. 2 for a Chess Club open to children and young adults in third through tenth grade at the Oak Lawn Public Library.

Members will meet for six weeks on Wednesday afternoons from Jan. 18-Feb. 22 from 4-5 p.m. Beginners as well as experienced players are invited to participate. Instructions and game boards will be provided, but members may opt to bring their own chess sets and clocks. Registration is required with the child's library card at the Youth Services Desk

Library Seeks Input from Teens

The Oak Lawn Public Library will hold its next Teen Advisory Board meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 18 from 7-8 p.m. Students in sixth through twelfth grade are invited to share ideas and suggestions to help the library better serve people in this age group. Partici-pation may qualify for volunteer service hours. Light refreshments will be provided.

Hoisting Your Sails

Join Joan Murphy, humorist motivational speaker and Community Health Director at Little Company of Mary Hospital, for "Hoisting Your Sails" on Wednesday, Jan. 18 at 7 p.m. Murphy will show you how to stay in the present as she shares some fun reflections about life and the joy and challenges in your busy dayFor more information about this and other free adult programs, call (708) 422-4990 or visit www.oaklawnlibrary.org.

Big Run Wolf Ranch

Winter Family Day

Open House! Come Celebrate Groundhog Day with Wilson! Saturday, January 28, 2012 10:00 am until 4:00 pm Admission is only $4.00. You can purchase Hot Food, Hot Chocolate, Bonfire, Drinks, Clothing, Jewelry, Raffles, Music Seasonal Passes and Adoptions We are available for Camping, Birthday Parties, and Field Trips. Our special guests are Drumice Sled Haulers Dog Sledding We have presentations! Parking available at Big Run Wolf Ranch 14857 Farrell Rd, Lockport , IL Big Run Wolf Ranch is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, federally licensed, wildlife education facility featuring rescued North American wildlife. Come see "Kuma" the black bear, our 9 wolves, cougar "Charlie", coyotes, raccoons, horses, and many other wild and domestic animals.

Come enjoy up close and personal wildlife lectures going on continuously throughout the day along with guided and unguided tours of our facility. Big Run Wolf Ranch www.bigrunwolfranch.org 14857 Farrell Road Email: bigrunwolf@aol.com Lockport , IL (815) 588-0044 Directions: www.expedia.com or www.mapquest.com

What's happening in Evergreen Park

Evergreen Park Girls Softball Registration will be on Jan. 7th, 14th, and 21st, 2012 from 9am-1pm at the Hamilton B. Maher Community Center (3450 W. 97th Street) for more info. call or email (President) Ray Richter at 708-717-6510 (RDRICHTER@comcast.net) or Bill Kehoe at 708-557-6908.

Evergreen Park ICE RINK IS NOW OPEN!!! (8900 S. Kedzie Ave.) Open Skate daily 5 pm to 7pm Tuesday thru Friday. Rent the Rink . For more info. call 708-229-3373, go to www.evergreenpark-ill.com/departments/recreation .

Evergreen Historical Commission needs a mannequin dressmaker-dummy for its museum. Anyone who wishes to donate please contact Jerry Bosch at 708-422-1551. St. Bernadette Parish will be hosting a Trivia Night on Jan. 7th, 2012. Doors open at 7pm. game starts at 8pm. For more info. call 708-636-5366.

The Evergreen Park Youth Dept. has teens looking for work. Hire village teens to help shovel snow, clean out the attic, basement or garage, call 708-229-3377 for details.

Evergreen Park Mini-Bus is the best deal in town . The outstanding services of the Office of Citizen's Services provide transportation and more for seniors and disabled adults of Evergreen Park. For more information call OCS at 708-422-8776.

Monthly Wake up Call Screening at Little Company of Mary. Learn your risk for stroke and heart disease. Call 708-423-5774 for an appointment. This simple one-hour appointment could save your life!! Also, Healthy Heart Screening. No Doctor's Order Needed! For more info. call 708-423-5774.

Celebrate the Heart of Women "Optimizing your Health". Feb 26th, 2012 at the Oak Lawn Hilton from 9am-noon. For more information and reservations call 708-424-9988 or visit www.LCMH.org/celebrate

VENDORS NEEDED: Evergreen Park H.S. (9901 S. Kedzie Ave.) Mustang Athletic Booster's will have a "Garage Sale" in the main gym. It will be Feb. 11, 2012 9am-3pm. For more info. go to www.evergreenpark.org

A Modern Day Parable is a production at the Oak Lawn Bible Church

"Baggage Claim: A Modern Day Parable" at Oak Lawn Bible Church The "I Witness" Players of Oak Lawn Bible Church will present the play "Baggage Claim: A Modern Day Parable" by Don Bosley to be held on three consecutive nights beginning Friday, January 13 and Saturday, January 14, 2012 at 7:00pm, and Sunday, January 15, 2012 at 5:00pm, (snow dates January 20-22, 2012) at the church located at 9435 S. 54th Avenue, Oak Lawn, IL.

"Baggage Claim" is the story of the D'Baquel family on vacation at a much-publicized bed & breakfast. Their stay goes awry, however, when they find the lodge full of animated goofballs and a screwy bellhop keeps tossing their luggage into the cavernous canyon that lies below the hotel.

There is no charge to attend this evangelistic drama. For more information, check the church website at oaklawnbible.org or call the church office at (708) 857-9800.

Marist High School to offer entrance exam

Marist High School's entrance exam for current eighth grade students will take place on Saturday, January 14, 2012. Students should arrive at 8:00 a.m. and enter through the main gymnasium doors. There is a $25 test fee. Students should bring two No. 2 pencils and are asked not to bring a calculator. The approximate dismissal time is 11:45 a.m. In order to be considered a candidate for 2012-2013 admission at Marist, prospective students must test at Marist High School. For additional information, contact Alex Brown, Director of Admissions, at 773-881-5330. The Mission of Marist High School as a Roman Catholic, coed high school, is to make Jesus Christ known and loved in the Marist Brothers' tradition, while preparing students for higher education and life.

Park Lawn sells chances for Hawaii Trip for Two

The winner receiving a tropical paradise for two for seven nights on two islands.

The trip would include two round trip airfare and inner airfare, five star hotels, and car rental in Maui. Winners will be greeted in the traditional Hawaiian fashion with lei.

They will also visit Pearl Harbor's Arizona Memorial and Visitor Center and receive a tour aboard the USS Missouri.

Tickets for Park Lawn's "Hawaii Trip for Two Raffle" cost $100 each and only 400 tickets will be sold. When: The drawing for the "Hawaii Trip for Two Raffle" will take place on Saturday, February 4, 2012. The drawing will take place at the Double Tree Hotel in Alsip during Park Lawn's "A Rhapsody in Blue" live and silent auction.

Tickets to the auction are sold separately. Winner need not be present to win. Tickets and more informa-tion are available by calling 708-425-6867, or visit Park Lawn located at 10833 S. LaPorte in Oak Lawn.

Local nonprofit organization Park Lawn Association provides residential and vocational support through a total of 12 facilities throughout Chicago Southland for more than 450 individuals with developmental disabilities. The raffle proceeds will benefit the Park Lawn programs and services provided to hundreds of individuals with developmental disabi-lities. It is the vision of Park Lawn's Board of Directors, families and staff to be well recognized in our field and the community for our quality programs, expert and caring staff, and dedicated volunteers. This will be accomplished while reducing the reliance of state funding from 75% to 50% of our budget. Park Lawn's mission is to provide services that promote independence, choice and access to community living for people with developmental disabilities.

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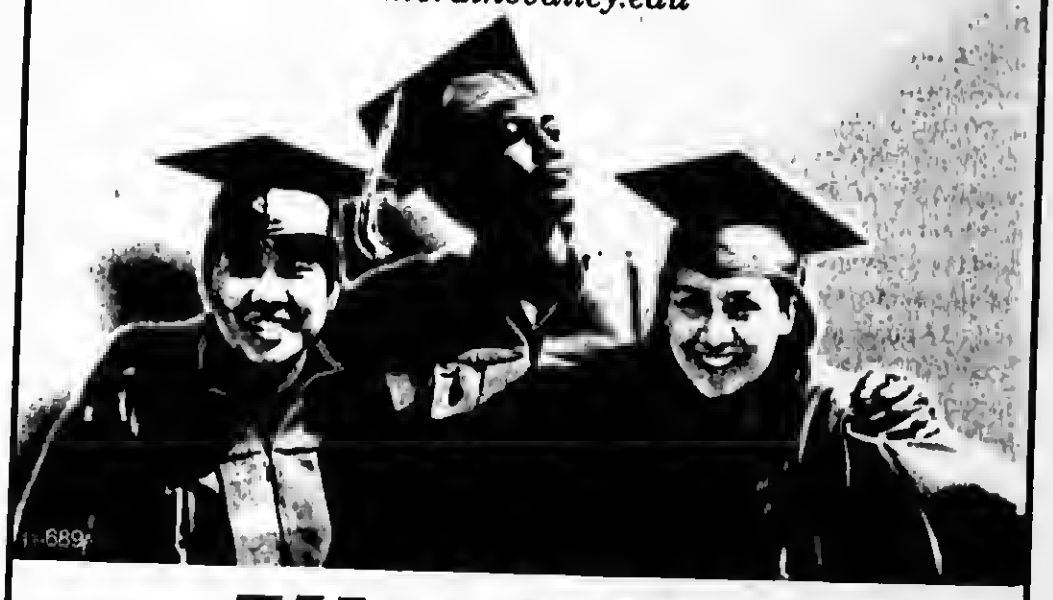

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Polo Cafe in Bridgeport has much to offer

by Annette Dixon

This year our Village View New Year resolution is to review Southside Restaurants. Give us a call and we will try to get your restaurant into the Village View Newspaper. Especially if you are a customer, call Annette at 312-624-8996.

Our first restaurant was Polo Cafe, after a year and a half of my friend insisting I eat there, I finally took her advice.

Polo Cafe/Banquet located in Bridgeport, which is really Chicago Southside. The banquet room is the remodeled EagleTheater, built in 1914, you will be impressed with what Dave Samber did to refurbish it. In 1997, Dave Samber, owner of Polo Cafe attached this building to his and people in the neighborhood started holding their parties, meetings and celebrations there. This is a great place to have an event, since it holds only 100 people and convenient free parking right south of the building.

After mentioning this place to my neice, she said, "Oh, Polo's Nut and Cookies. Yes, people from the neighborhood know this place and speak of it with reverence."The word of mouth is out there because Dave Samber gives the impression that everything runs so smoothly because he has the best of help.

The opinion I have is he loves what he owns, loves having his employees and loves people and a church going man. He certainly is a wonderful individual. You know immediately it's not about the money.

After interviewing Dave, the realization of the original Nut and Old fashion Ice Cream Parlor store that was once there, soon became his reality in 1985. He wanted to keep the tradition of Polo's alive, but it only lasted about five years. Then he expanded to a cafe, which now operates within certain hours and requires reservations.

Have a Bloody Mary Brunch, open on Saturdays9:00am until 2:00 pm. Call for reservations! Lunch is open Monday through Friday 11am until 3pm. Dinner is Friday and Saturday 5pm until 9pm, again reservations required. You can call regarding Sunday hours 312-927-NUTS or visit their website at polo.com.

The Polo Cafe is quaint, original maple wood flooring, wall highly decorative with posters and portrait of Bridgeport, Mayor Richard Daley, Sr. and Dave Samber's friends and many advertisement from the past. The ceiling is painted white and made of ornately designed tin with cornices also painted white and green with refined workmanship from the 20's.

He loves antique architecture and asked if I wanted to visit his four theme suites in the extended upstairs quarters. He remodeled for the purpose of having a B&B Business in 2008.

Take the kids and have them see antique floors and ceiling that their great grandparents would have and also enjoy good food. The service is strictly Bridgeport style. You know you're in Bridgeport when your waiter says here's the menu, can I get you something to drink.

They do have a full menu for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Prices are a little more than the average in the south suburbs, but not too pricey. In comparison sandwiches start at about $7.95, breakfast for a custom 3 egg omelet $7.50, Surf and Turf $22.50. Now if you are just going for desserts, then you will be getting your money's worth.

My favorite is the Creme Brulee auChocolat which received a 2006 World of Chocolate Judge's Award and is "the best I've had in my life!" (ABC-TV 7's Sylvia Perez)' no wonder it's our Signature $3.50/$8.50. Dave's secret is Bloomers Dark Chocolate on the bottom baked in waterbath.

Check on the internet for the menu, days and hours, or make reservations polo.com BridgeportBed andBreakfast.com or call 312-927-NUTS.

The location is 3325 S. Morgan St. Chicago, IL. parking is free (South of the Bldg.).

Famed Second City to perform at Moraine Valley

Enjoy an evening of The Second City's sketch comedy theater at Moraine Valley Community College on Saturday, January 28, at 7:30 p.m. The "Laugh Out Loud Tour" will be in the Dorothy Menker Theater in the Fine and Performing Arts Center, 9000 W. College Pkwy., Palos Hills. Tickets are $20 for adults, $15 for seniors and $10 for students

Comedy-stars-in-the-making will perform satire and cutting-edge improvisation that has become the comedy troupe's trademark pieces. No topic or subject matter is off limits for The Second City. If it's banned at the dinner table, chances are it will be made fun of on stage. Founded in Chicago in 1959, The Second City has become the premier training ground for the comedy world's best and brightest, launching the careers of Tina Fey, Stephen Colbert, Steve Carell, Bill Murray, and more.

This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency. Tickets for The Second City and other upcoming performances can be purchased online at morainevalley.edu/fpac, by calling (708) 974-5500, or at the Box Office, located on the south end of the Fine and Performing Arts Center.

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Penelope is an unusual play but many great laughs

by Annette Dixon

The opening scene appears to be a homeless character going down the ladder into a vast blue empty pool carrying his food, drinks, chairs, radio and everything he may need. The intensity of seeing this man walk around the pool, begins to tell us exactly what may be coming next. When he donns his clothing and appears in his Speedo, this now begins the storyline. Scott Jaeck (Dunne) and Ian Barford (Burns) are the first two dialoguing and getting us set up for what the play is really about.

Penelope is a takeoff of the story of Odysseus' return home after the Trojan War. I am totally surprised when I find out what I am listening to and the remarks of the scarred battle of four men in their speedos vying for the affection of a woman. They become locked in a do or die competition to win the love of Penelope.

Sometimes I get lost in the play and am looking for more answers as to what will come next, and then at other times I get lost in the lengthy dialogue and lose the message. Regardless, my favorite character is Fitz (Tracy Letts) who seems to straighten me out and keeps me in focus as to what is coming next. Yasen Peyankov (Quinn) is the deboneir lover who is wildly funny and anxious to win the affection of Penelope. The outcome is so good that all of the dialogue certainly was well worth the surprised ending.

Go see the play and let me know what you think? The play runs until February 5th, at Steppenwolf Theater, 1650 N. Halsted St., tickets can be purchased at the box office or online at www.steppenwolf.org

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The FDA has found numerous weight-loss products labeled as "dietary supplements" that ar tainted with hidden prescription drugs and other harmful ingredients.

Tips On Avoiding Weight-Loss Scams

(NAPSA)—Often, those looking for a quick fix when trying to lose weight can end up losing money— and possibly their health. While many weight-loss products claim there is an easy way to shed pounds, it's rare that these products live up to their claims. Even worse, they can cause serious harm and even kill you.

Tainted Weight-Loss Products Pose a Risk

The FDA has found numerous weight-loss products labeled as "dietary supplements" that are tainted with hidden prescription drugs and other harmful ingredients. Some products contain dangerous concoctions of unlisted ingredients including stimulant diet drugs, controlled substances and drugs that were removed from the market for safety reasons. Such products can carry significant risks to unsuspecting consumers.

Tainted products come in many forms including "slimming" capsules, coffees or teas. They often promise drastic and immediate weight loss and claim to be "all natural" with "no side effects." Consumers should be especially wary of weight-loss products labeled in foreign languages.

The FDA has received numerous reports of serious injuries associated with tainted weight-loss products, including stroke, kidney failure and death. Many of these products are imported and sold through the Internet, but some can also be found on store shelves.

Watch For Bogus Claims

There is no magic bullet for losing weight. Consumers should beware of products that promise quick fixes and amazing results. Learn to recognize the false claims that are often used in weight-loss scams. Be on the lookout for claims, including:

- "Lose 30 pounds in 30 days"
- "Permanent or guaranteed weight loss"
- "Lose weight without diet or exercise"
- "Eat all you want and lose weight"
- "Takes weight off quickly— and keeps it from coming back"
- "Lose weight while you sleep"
- "Money-back guarantee."

If you have questions about weight-loss products, check with your health care professional before using them.

To report illnesses or injuries believed to be related to a weight-loss product, call (800) FDA-1088 or visit FDA online at www.fda. gov/safety/MedWatch.

For more information on how to spot health fraud scams, visit www.fda.gov/healthfraud.

Top Myths—And Facts—About Diabetes

(NAPSA)—If you or a person you are caring for has diabetes— and uses insulin—you may want to learn more about the facts and myths surrounding diabetes and insulin pump therapy.

Insulin pumps are designed to be comfortable 24 hours a day.

Myth: All people with diabetes are overweight.

Reality: Weight is not a cause (or effect) of either type 1 or type 2 diabetes. Type 1 diabetes (previously called juvenile diabetes) is an autoimmune disorder that prevents the body from producing insulin, which is necessary for the body to use glucose for energy. Type 2 diabetes—which results when either the body doesn't produce enough insulin or the cells ignore the insulin—is sometimes accelerated/worsened by poor diet and an inactive lifestyle as well as genetics.

One treatment for people with type 1 diabetes or those with type 2 diabetes who need to take insulin is an insulin pump. Worn externally and about the size of a small cell phone, an insulin pump can be clipped to a belt, slipped into a pocket or hidden under clothes. It delivers precise doses of rapid-acting insulin to closely match the body's needs.

Myth: You have to know a lot about technology to use a pump.

Reality: Successfully managing diabetes with an insulin pump can be as easy as entering blood sugar and meal information— then pressing enter. The insulin pump keeps track of insulin delivered, so there is no need to write anything down.

Myth: You can't be active with diabetes.

Reality: Aerobic exercise is important for people with diabetes because it increases sensitivity to insulin, lowers blood pressure, improves cholesterol levels and decreases body fat. For improving glycemic control, the American Diabetes Association recommends at least 150 minutes per week of moderate-intensity physical activity or at least 90 minutes per week of vigorous aerobic exercise.

With a sturdy design and the ability to be secured to the body or even detached, an insulin pump allows the flexibility to participate in physical activities.

Myth: Wearing an insulin pump is uncomfortable and painful.

Reality: Using an insulin pump reduces injections: 1,460 injections per year vs. 122 infusion set changes per year.

The infusion site for the pump is very comfortable and it usually doesn't take long to get used to wearing the device.

For more information, visit www.medtronicdiabetes.com.

For important safety information about Medtronic insulin pumps, please visit www.med tronicdiabetes.com/importantsafetyinformation.

Every few years, remove a third of the branches.

Five Pruning Tips

(NAPSA)-Pruning shrubs helps produce new and healthier growth plus keeps them at a manageable size.

Here are a few tips to help:

1. Cut at an angle a quarter of an inch above a bud. If the cut is any closer, the bud may not survive and the branch will die.

2. Prune flowering shrubs in late winter or early spring, before they flower, or, for spring-flowering shrubs, after they flower.

3. Every few years, remove about one-third of the branches-including dead wood, weak growth and broken and diseased branches.

4. Winter-hardy shrubs die back to the ground each year. In the spring, cut off all dead branches to about six inches from the ground.

5. Start with the right cutting and collecting tools. For example, The Gardener's Hollow Leg is a handy recycled polyester sack with a belt attached that can reduce the need to bend over. Worn around the waist, the sack leaves hands free to collect trimmings and debris, deadhead or harvest, making it safer for ladder tasks, too. Comfortable and ergonomically correct, the sack eliminates lugging around a bucket or creating piles of clippings that must later be picked up. A strap on the bottom makes it easy to dump debris into the compost pile when the job is done. It's a great gift idea for gardeners.

For more information, visit www.thegardenershollowleg.com.

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Gently used shoes offer you the option of being Cinderella for a day.

Stylish Footwear For Less Is A "Shoe-in"

(NAPSA)—Getting the latest designer shoes is even more fun if they're a steal, and fortunately, getting stylish footwear at a greatly reduced price is a "shoe-in."

There are many places that claim to sell designer shoes online, but consumers should shop carefully. When shopping for shoe bargains online:

• Be wary of counterfeits. If a shoe that usually sells for hundreds of dollars is available for a lot less, it could be a counterfeit.

• Examine a seller's feedback.

• Ask about shipping costs. Some online bargains may not be such a good deal because they are accompanied by exorbitant shipping costs.

• Consider gently used shoes. For example, you can find designer shoes that are "like new" from companies such as Bag Borrow or Steal. The site offers you the chance to buy, own and wear like-new designer boots, flats and shoes on its popular "Private Sale" website.

Founded in 2004, Bag Borrow or Steal offers unprecedented rental access to the world's most desired collection of authentic designer handbags, jewelry, watches and sunglasses via its website www.bagborroworsteal.com. Featured in the first "Sex and the City" movie, the company wowed even Carrie Bradshaw.

The private sale site has quickly established itself as the premiere fashion website for purchasing gently used authentic designer accessories.

Featured brands include Burberry, Chanel, Chloe, Coach, Fendi, Gucci, Louis Vuitton, Prada, and Tom Ford at greatly reduced prices—up to 70 percent off retail. Frequently, each pair of shoes or boots is just available in one size.

Bought from those ladies who perhaps only wore their brand-new shoes just once, the site's buying specialists ensure every pair is sold "like new." Buying experts guarantee quality and authenticity for each pair featured on its website. It's never been easier to be Cinderella for a day.

The company frequently adds new inventory to its already highly sought-after collection and continues to grow its customer base and loyal following from within the fashion industry and beyond.

Did You Know?

(NAPS)—Democracy is on the rise in the Middle East. For example, Bahrain, a small island state in the Middle East, recently took a big step toward giving the elected chamber of Parliament much greater control over the government.

Guys often rely on a generic bar of soap, but the dryness caused by soap is cumulative and can damage your skin, say the experts. Instead, grab a moisturizing body wash like Dove Men+Care Clean Comfort Body and Face Wash that fights skin dryness with no irritation or tightness.

The Color Care Across America project by Benjamin Moore Paints gave many emergency shelters' uplifting color paint makeovers. For more information about the project, you can visit http://apps.facebook.com/bm-colorcare.

The Gardener's Hollow Leg is a handy recycled polyester sack with a belt attached that is worn while gardening, collecting debris or harvesting. Designed to be worn around the waist, it leaves hands free to work. For more information, visit www.thegardenershollowleg.com.

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SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 38 | Number 14 | January 17, 2012

Burbank, Evergreen Park, Hickory Hills, Justice, Oak Lawn

Bridgeview settles on assurance for insurance

by Jan Glaz

The first Village of Bridgeview Board of Trustees meeting for the New Year was held on January 4th and at this meeting the city council passed a unanimous approval of the recommendation of Assurance Agency as the Village's health insurance broker. The Insurance Committee read volumes of proposals, had numerous days of meetings and after careful deliberation, settled on Assurance. They had reviewed responses from (7) other firms; a total of (8). The major difference between the firms came down to an overall customer service approach and comfort level from the Committee relating to two major items, depth of firm and ability to guide the Village through the bidding/negotiating process. There is a vast menu of options available to the Village, which the Village and its employees have not been utilizing or were aware of. These include retail discounts for health related products, wellness and educational programs and in some cases discounts on health clubs and related services. In addition, the Committee has gained a tremendous amount of contemporary knowledge related to how health insurance will affect the Village financially, and the substantial benefits to its employees in the coming months and years.

Two appointment motions carried: Appointment to Zoning Board, Karen Civinelli, William Macklin, and Maher Khattab; appointment to the Personnel Board Members, Naser Gholeh. After the appointments it was announced by Trustee Higginson that the Village will be seeking bids for a new ambulance.

The last Ordinance to be approved before adjournment was the granting of a Special Use Permit to allow the operation of an automotive repair business and a used motor vehicle dealership on the property located at, 8251 South Harlem Avenue, Bridgeview, Illinois.

Justice votes to raise prices of vehicle stickers

By Jan Glaz

In an attempt to balance a budget deficit the Village of Justice is raising all vehicle sticker prices by an additional $10. The motion carried after a discussion by the City Council at the Village of Justice Board of Trustees Meeting, January 9th. Trustee Ed Rusch who introduced the motion announced that the senior's tag currently $5.00, will go up to $10.00, he added that seniors prior to this ordinance could only purchase one vehicle tag at $5.00 and any other car they owned would have a $25.00 fee, now they will be able to purchase as many tags as they have cars registered to them at their address for $10.00. Trustee Kinga Bartoszek cast a nay vote because due to her research Justice was totally out of market. She brought attention to the sticker prices charged by surrounding communities, Bridgeview charges $10; Crestwood $5.00; Palos $0.00; Stickney $0.00. Trustee Sue Small voted yes stating that the City of Chicago has increased their fees and that as everyone in the room knew they were in a deficit budget and needed to balance the budget.

UNPAID WATER & SEWER BILLS: Trustee Rusch made an important announcement that could aid the village financially conceming delinquent water and sewer bills. He commented that the village has the ability for bills that are delinquent to shut off water service, however the village has no way of shutting off the sewer service and there are a substantial amount of bills that have not been collected. The village will investigate legally if they can merge sewer and water collection under one bill and tum it over to the water commission allowing them to disconnect services for failure to pay water and sewer charges.

Trustee Ed Rusch then asked for approval of an ordinance amending chapters 3 and 13 of the Justice Municipal Code Conceming Precious Gems Brokers (Cash for Gold Legislation). Trustee Rusch stated that after conversations with the police department it was decided that they put no obligation on the business except taking a photograph, the license fee stays the same and the only other requirement would be that his or her employees would have to apply for a Broker's License so the Village can do background checks. The vote was unanimous.

The meeting concluded with a motion approved for an ordinance to eliminate the Office of Chief of Staff to the Mayor and Board of Trustees.

Hickory Hills Council members question water rate options

by Jan Glaz

A large portion of the Hickory Hills City Council Meeting on January 12th was devoted to deciding which water rate option to approve at the next scheduled meeting. Rates vary from town to town. It was mentioned that Palos Hills would increase the water rate to $0.73, sixty cents was coming from Oak Lawn where they buy their water and then thirteen cents was added to cover other operating costs. Justice and Willow Springs are raising their rate from $4.65 to $5.25 and Oak Forest is looking to raise the rate $1.00 per thousand gallons of water. The City Council discussed various options for Hickory Hills after reporting that the water increase passed on to the city from Justice and Willow Springs through the city of Chicago is going increase water costs in 2012 to $250,000.00.

A lease agreement between the City of Hickory Hills and Cingular Wireless for an additional 88 square feet of property use at 8800 W. 87th Street to place a generator on the site in case of an electric outage was approved by the City Council. The price agreed upon to pay the City was $500 a month.

To celebrate the huge success of the Land of Lakes e-waste recycling event Alderman McAvoy announced the presentation of Survivors Certificates and Pins to be awarded to volunteers who contributed to the heavy work involved in transporting 27,241 pounds of electronic e-waste for recycling as mandated under the Illinois Electronic products Recycling and Reuse Act in effect as of January 1, 2012. Residential consumers who violate either the prohibition against mixing electronic devices with other waste or the landfill ban commit a petty offense punishable by a fine of $25 for the first offense and a fine of $50 for subsequent violations. Any person or entity that is not a residential consumer who violates either the prohibition against mixing electronic devices with other waste or landfill ban commits a petty offense punishable by a $500 fine.

Mayor Mike Howley announced that Walgreens Drug Store requested a Class A Liquor License which the Village did not have and they would have to create two Class A Liquor Licenses that includes beer, wine, and spirits. The council felt that the request was due to the competion of other retailers selling liquor. The Board of Trustees will vote on approval of the request for license at the next regular City Council Meeting scheduled for January 26, 2012

Pictured (front, from left) are Vivian Acevedo of Wrightwood, Paulina Lopez of Brighton Park, Iman Brown of Gresham, Stephanie Rodriguez of Gage Park, Venessa Suarez of Cicero, Jenaun Jackson of Pullman, Brianna Terrell of Pullman, Ruth Hollis of Bridgeport, and Zoie Sanders-Cobb of Gresham; (back, from top left) Carly Comiskey, chaperone; Brianna Burks of Chicago Lawn, and Shayana Lanier of Chicago Lawn.

Maria High School fulfills Wish List of St. Martin de Porres House of Hope

Maria High School students feel happy as they get ready recently to deliver many boxes and bags of donated nonperishable food and household products to residents of the Saint Martin de Porres House of Hope. These generous students, who are in Sister Elizabeth Ann Yocius' Senior Advisory, won the mini-field trip by collecting 137 items found on the House of Hope's.

House of Hope's goal is to enable each resident to leave the shelter with a renewed sense of dignity through personal responsibility so (she) can re-enter her community as a positive force and remain stabilized.

Village View

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FAR SOUTH EDITION

Volume 10 | Number 2 | January 17, 2012

Oak Forest, Orland Park, Tinley Park

Orland maps out water increase

by Jan Glaz

Due to the holidays the regular Village of Orland Park Board Meeting commenced on Tuesday. January 3, 2012. The first meeting of the year was brief but the agenda highlights were informative. The first item of interest mapped out some details concerning the Chicago Water Rate Increase – approval: Chicago stated that as part of its current budget process an additional increase in rates are to be charged to water customers because of aging infrastructure and the need for extensive repairs. The breakdown of rates is as follows: 25% effective January 1, 2012, with subsequent increases of 15% per year 2013, 2014, and 2015: all effective on the first of January each year. The Village of Oak Lawn, where Orland Park buys its Chicago Water, will pass these rate increases onto Orland Park.

Because the City of Chicago is increasing its rates, Orland Park's adoption of the "revised proposed rates" for 2012 will result in an increase of approximately $3.75 per monthly billing period, based on a bimonthly usage of 9,000 gallons. The revenues from the village water fund will not be able to cover the increased cost-of-water expenditure unless it passes the Chicago rate increase onto the community. Consideration by the full Village Board is scheduled for Monday, January 16, 2012.

Tenant Relocation Claims listed on the Village Agenda were approved. This policy approval ensures that the remaining Orland Plaza tenants can obtain their relocation assistance payments in anticipation of the village gaining title to the Phase I acquisition property at the Orland Plaza, February 14, 2012. The Village Board agrees to relocation estimates in an effort to assist Orland Plaza tenants with relocation. Approval of estimates will enable staff to issue checks with a 'not to exceed' amount subject to verification by the village's relocation assistance consultant, Ms. Annette Favia. Most tenants have already begun relocating and received a portion or all of their payments. The approval pertains to the handful of remaining businesses that have not yet finalized relocation plans. As the tenants do so, eligible costs will be verified and checks will be issued to those tenants.

The last item of interest to residents is the revolving Loan Fund for the Orland Park Bakery to help the bakery relocate and expand at 14870 South LaGrange Road. The project includes construction of a larger bakery, from its current 3,750 square feet to its new 6,400 square feet facility, also the purchase and rehabilitation of bakery equipment. The approved loan for the Orland Park Bakery is in the amount of $100,000.

Oak Forest delays apporoval of water increase

by Jan Glaz

Approval of an Ordinance to establish charges for the fresh water supply system in the City of Oak Forest was the subject of a round of discussion by council members at the Board of Trustees Meeting on Tuesday, January 10th. Finance Director Coleen Julian provided details concerning the proposed hike of $1.00 per thousand gallons of water and admitted that the increase was higher than average compared to the six municipalities she observed. She also reported a deficit that is budgeted in the fiscal year 2012 Water Fund and a need to increase the reserve within the Water Fund due to the fact that they are overdrawn approximately$700,000.00. Julian stressed that the City should act now to address the issue.

City Treasurer Dwayne Fox agreed stating, "You can't have a negative fund balance it's against city policy." Alderman Daniel Ensing was not in favor of the purposed increase. "We charge more on water fund percentage of full time employees than any other community does so we are higher, we put more of a burden on our water fund." He felt by addressing water fund full time and over time employees that Oak Forest could absorb a portion of the Chicago increase as budgeted by both Orland Park and Tinley Park. Ensign suggested further discussion before approving a $1.00 increase. Alderman Simon added that it's an added hardship for Senior citizens. The City Council then voted to delay, discuss, and reschedule the item for the next City Council Meeting on January 26th.

Before adjournment two motions carried: An expenditure of $780,000 of motor fuel tax funds for various uses; traffic signals, use of salt, patching materials, equipment rental, and MFT engineering costs, and the purchase of a CASE 580 SN Backhoe. Public Works Director Troy Ishler reported that the backhoe needs to be replaced but that the state purchase price ended in November and for some reason the City was not notified. Public Works contacted the contractor responsible for the state purchase program and they agreed to hold the price into January for a cost savings of $14,000.00. Ishler stated that the City currently uses two backhoes and with the purchase of the new, the oldest will traded-in to reduce the cost. The money for both approvals has been budgeted and approved in the original Capital Improvement Plan.

Orland Township is now open to accept 2011 Board of Review Assessment Appeals

Any resident who feels their property is overvalued may file an appeal. Our appeal filing period began,Tuesday, January 10,2012 and ends Wednesday, February 8, 2012.

Effective with the 2011 tax year "On-Line" appeal filing is a new option now available to all Cook County residents. Complete and easy to follow instructions can be located www.cookcountyboardofreview.com. The filing deadline for all On-Line appeals is 11:30 P.M. February 8th.

If you need assistance in preparing your appeal, please call the Orland Township Assessor's Office at 708-403-4222 to schedule an appointment.

CJB Fifth Grade Crestwood Recreation Center Tournament ChampsFront Row (from left): Olivia Cassidy (Frankfort), Alex Dennis (Tinley Park), Haley Smith (Orland Park)Second Row (from left) Rachel Holic (Orland Park), Bridget Grady (Frankfort), Tina Soltis (Tinley Park), Abigail Groszek (Homer Glen), Katie Mather (Orland Park), Annie Gregg (Orland Hills), Lauren Qualizza (Orland Park). Third Row: Coaches Colleen Mather and Bob Marthaler

CJB 5th Grade Girls' Volleyball Team Wins Crestwood Tournament(Orland Hills)

The Cardinal Joseph Bemardin Catholic School (CJB) 5th grade girls' Red volleyball team went undefeated (4-0) in an invitational tournament hosted by the Crestwood Recreation Center.

The Lady Cardinals won the championship on Sunday, January 8, 2012, winning two out of three games in the Championship match against a talented team from George F. Cassell Elementary School from Chicago's Mount Greenwood neighborhood. The CJB team was undefeated going into the championship game and handily defeating St. Christopher and Queen of Martyrs in the first round and St. George in the semifinal round. "The young ladies from Cassell were tough competitors and we were pleased to see the CJB team rise to the challenge and improve their level of play to win the final match with victories in two of the three games," says Coach Bob Marthaler and Colleen Mather both of Orland Park. Marthaler further stated that the key to the girls' tremendous play in this tournament and in regular season play, in which to date they've lost just a single game, is a result of a supportive team atmosphere and tenacious play.

The Cardinal Joseph Bemardin School athletics program seeks to put Christian values into practice by helping young athletes develop to the best of their abilities and to participate with dignity and grace. Please visit the school's website at www.cardinaljbschool.com to learn more.

Village View

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SOUTH SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 13 | Number 2 | January 17, 2012

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

Moraine Valley seeks Distinguished Alumnus Award nominees

Graduates of Moraine Valley Community College who have been successful in their industry or career are being sought for the 2012 Distinguished Alumnus Award. In addition to being named the college's Distinguished Alumnus, the nominee will be submitted into the state-wide Distinguished Alumnus Award program sponsored by the Illinois Community College Trustees Association.

The selection committee will consider such factors as outstanding success and distinction in his/her chosen field, humanitarian service that has proven greatly beneficial to society, and continued interest in and support of education and community colleges. A complete list of the award guidelines can be found online at communitycolleges.org/awardsummary.

A nomination form can be downloaded from the Moraine Valley website at morainevalley.edu or sent electronically by e-mailing Jessica Crotty at erotty@morainevalley.edu. Nominations must be submitted to Moraine Valley's College and Community Relations Office in Building D, Room 106, 9000 W. College Pkwy., Palos Hills, by 5 p.m. on Friday, January 27. For more information, call (708) 974-5375.

Next issue is Valentine's Day and Bridal, call 312-624-8996 to advertise.

Commissioner Debra Shore

Chicago Ridge Friendship Club

Commissioner Debra Shore of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, will speak before the Chicago Ridge Friendship Club, Monday, January 23 at 10:45 a.m. at Village Hall, 10455 S. Ridgeland, Chicago Ridge.

Shirley Weinert, coordinator, announced the commissioner will share her expertise on the disposal of pharmaceuticals.

Commissioner Shore is the Founding Editor and Writer of "The Chicago Wilderness" and has received many awards for her writing accomplishments. She has degrees from Columbia College, John Hopkins University and Goucher College.

Chicago Ridge Public Library

The Chicago Ridge Public Library, 10400 S. Oxford, is hosting the following programs.

Ancestry.com & Heritage Quest, Your Genealogy Tools on Thursday, January 19th, 7:00 p.m. Just spent the holiday season with family and want to know more about your genealogy? This one-session class introduces students to two online databases that can help you search your family tree. Ancestry.com, accessible in the library, includes U.S. Federal Census records; passenger lists; birth, death, marriage and military records; and more. HeritageQuest, accessible both in the library and from home includes census data, family records, and local histories.

Intermediate Computers on Tuesday, January 24th, 10 am – 12 pm Learn how to work with files and folders and how to back up your data. Requirements: Computer Basics class or ability to use a computer. Stop by the library to pre-pay the $5 fee.

Library Lounge @ the Pub at Jack Desmond's Irish Pub on Wednesday, January 25th, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Join us for a night out at Desmond's! Play "pub trivia" with a library twist, browse bestsellers, and if you don't have a library card you can even apply for one! We will be giving away a basket full of "literary delights" at the event. Jack Desmond's is located at 10339 Ridgeland Avenue. Must be 21+ to attend. No registration required.

SuperBowl Munchies with Chef Kate Bradley on Thursday, January 26th, 7:00 p.m. Chef Kate Bradley will share with us her favorite party snack foods. Learn how to prepare easy appetizer and dessert dishes that will be the hit of the party. $3 tasting fee. stop by the library and register in person.

College FAFSA Forms Demystified on Monday, January 30th, 7:00 p.m. A representative from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission will help us get through the final phase of filing FASA forms. Free program.

Introduction to the Internet, Tuesday, January 31st, 10 am – 12 pm Learn to navigate the Web using Internet Explorer. Requirements: Computer Basics class or ability to use a computer mouse. Stop by the library to pre-pay the $5 fee.

Call the library at 423-7753 to register for these programs or for more information.

BACK ROW (L-R): Jacob Bruinius (Tinley Park), Josh Mollema (Oak Forest), Brodie Meyer (Palos Heights), Jay Carr (Orland Park), Allen Neal (Orland Park), Jimmy Johnston (Beverly), Robin Medema (Monee), Scott Cooper (Orland Park), Jack DeVries (Mokena), Jason Wolterink (Crestwood), Tim Xu (Orland Park).

MIDDLE ROW (L-R): Samantha Koldenhoven (Orland Park), Kaylie Kuhn (Homer Glen), Becca Kuiper (Palos Heights), Lauren Kuipers (Orland Park), Megan Bruinius (Tinley Park), Stephanie Kuiper (Oak Forest), Jessica Brady (Palos Park), Raven-Symone Brown (Richton Park), Alyssa Bednarak (Chicago), Paige Speelman (Tinley Park), David Yff (Orland Park).

FRONT ROW (L-R): Jay Timmer (Tinley Park), Kaleb DeJager (Alsip), Adam Doorn (Palos Heights), George Tsourdinas (Orland Park), Mario Garza (Chicago Ridge), India Daniels (Palos Heights), Ashley Swartwout (Olympia Fields), Jared Tiesenga (Orland Park), Brianna Their (Tinley Park), Trisha Castro (Richton Park).

Chicago Christian High Takes Time to Honor "Excellence"

The students, staff, and administration at Chicago Christian High School took time out of their day to honor students who have displayed excellence in classroom achievement, excellence in character development, and an excellent work ethic during the second quarter of this year. Each academic department was to select students that represented these requirements in their subject area. Those who were chosen will attend a school sponsored off-campus lunch with Principal and Superintendent Mr. Robert Payne. Congratulations to the winners for their achievements during the second quarter of the school year!

Village View

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B-MAC EDITION

Volume 6 | Number 2 | January 17, 2012

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Residents support Village of Crestwood decision

by Jan Glaz

The motion, Consideration of an Ordinance Authorizing the Village of Crestwood to Pay for Legal Services for former water department employee Frank Scaccia, a certified water operator accused of false statements concerning Crestwood's use of contaminated well water, was approved by the City Council Thursday evening, January 5th. The vote passed 3-2; Trustee James Fowler withdrew his vote, remaining neutral, Trustee John Toscas and Theresa Flynn both voted nay. Members of the Police and Fire Department were in attendance along with members of the News Media and a larger than average turnout of Crestwood residents. After the motion to pay up to $150,000 of Mr. Scaccia's legal fees carried, Mayor Stranczek opened the meeting for public participation. The majority of residents who voiced their opinion about the Ordinance to pay for Legal Service were in support of the decision. Other citizens directed praise and thanks to the Village of Crestwood for non-related issues.

GARAGE SALES: An important Ordinance amending the Village Code regarding how residents conduct Garage Sales within the Village was approved by the Board of Trustees: No person shall hold a garage sale on their property without obtaining a permit from the village. Permit applications can be obtained at the Village Hall with a payment of $5.00 and no more than two (2) garage sale permits will be issued per calendar year per dwelling. Garage sales shall last no more than (3) days and not before 9:00 a.m. nor after 6:00 p.m. And there are restrictions on the locations of where and how items are displayed, types of items that may be sold, signage, and parking. Residents should contact the Village concerning other regulations and restrictions of how specific sales are to be conducted from or on residential premises. Any person violating a provision of the Ordinance shall be fined a minimum of $50.00 and a maximum of $500.00 for each offense. In addition a $50.00 ticket will be issued to cover the cost of sign removal for signs not removed by the applicant within (24) hours of the permit expiration. This Ordinance is in full force and effect as of its adoption and approval.

A Special Use Permit was granted to the Crestwood Heights Nursing home located at 14255 S. Cicero Avenue. The nursing home has been sold, after 40 years, and will be under new ownership as of January 06, 2012. The new owners plan to invest tremendous funds to upgrade the home

Before the Council Meeting adjourned two Bond and Oath appointments were accepted: Timothy J. Stoffregen (E.M.A.) and Daniel Peters (Fire Department).

Proposal to buy Mid-Oak Plaza

by Jan Glaz

On January 11, at the Midlothian Village Board Meeting, it was reported that Village Administrator James Lang is negotiating a proposal for purchase from Chicago Creative Design for the Mid-Oak Plaza. The strip mall consists of 24,600 sq. ft. of highly visible retail space located on the South West corner of 147th and Cicero Avenue. The Plaza at present is in foreclosure but is a valuable corner property with a spacious parking lot, a Bus line, and an intersection consisting of high traffic volume. In addition a well-established presence of local and national business anchors the busy shopping center.

Other Council business, a motion carried to grant permission for title searches for three Village Properties (14715 Keystone, 14417 Kostner and 143 Kostner).

GRANT AWARD UPDATE: Trustee Karen Kreis received notice from Kurlyn Monnie, Grants Administrator for the Public Health Institute of Chicago, which contained a letter from Patrick Lenihan, Ph.D., Executive Director, announcing that the Model Community Grant has been extended three months to June 30, 2012 to complete all projects. On January 20th Karen Kreis will participate in the second wave of case studies for Communities Putting Prevention to Work. Midlothian was selected to participate in the case study due to their performance and administration of obtaining this grant award. Although the Apparatus and Equipment Grant was not awarded to the Fire Department on the first two tries, it still can be awarded since the grant opportunity will be going on for the next 25 weeks giving the Village another chance to receive the grant money.

A final note regarding the importance of grant awards: Blue card training, which is incident command training, will be offered to all officers within Divisions 19, 22, and 24. It was learned that Midlothian, in Division 22, can participate in receiving a grant from Mutual Aide Box Alarm System, a grant for Chiefs and Deputy Chiefs. Initially before awareness of the grant there was resistance to receive the training due to the cost of the program, but a grant will assist in offsetting the cost.

District 130 seeks community involvement in'Community Compact 2020'

Cook County School District 130 is in the process of revising its current mission, vision and core values statements through an industrious strategic planning process called Community Compact 2020.

A planning meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 31, from 7 to 8 pm in the Media Center at Veterans Memorial Middle School, located at 12320 S. Greenwood in Blue Island. Attendees are asked to enter through the main doors located along Greenwood Avenue and the Media Center is located on the second floor. The purpose of the initial meeting is to discuss the process and to seek a commitment from various stakcholders who will take charge of the committee and commit to a series of meetings all while creating a sound philosophical foundation for the District.

"The compact we form through this ambitious endeavor will benefit our students for many years to come and it is our hope to conclude this journey by bringing forth new principles to the Board of Education for full adoption in June," said Dr. Raymond Lauk, superintendent. Parents and community members are asked to RSVP by Wednesday, January 25, to rsvp@district130.org if planning on attending the meeting. For those interested in serving on the committee but unable to attend the planning meeting, please email sfordice@district130.org.

Cook County School District 130 serves nearly 4,100 students at thirteen school sites. The district serves portions of the communities of: Alsip, Blue Island , Crestwood and Robbins.

Newly elected president of the Irish Fellowhship Club of Chicago

Brian Hickey, President and Business Manager of the Operating Engineers, Local 399, is the newly elected President of the Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago.

Pictured is Brian Hickey (left) being congratulated by the outgoing Irish Fellowship Club President, Patrick Thompson, prominent Chicago Attorney.

Things to do in Blue Island

Ice skating in the Park District is looking forward to good ice skating weather when the temperature drops. Go to Hart Park Stadium, just bring your skates or rent a pair from us for a low fee. Visit our webiste for the ice rink weather update. Hart Park Stadium at 123rd & Western, Blue Island, IL

The Center for Economic Progress is looking for volunteers to be trained as tax preparers and tax site assistants at low-income tax sites around Chicago.

Contact Nina Limbeck at 312-630-0288 x1 or e-mail nlimbeck@economicprogress.org.

Businesses Should Plan Now To Lock In Their Insurance Rates for 2012

Elite Benefits of America is currently helping business owners identify coverage mistakes in their annual insurance reviews to assure rates are locked in for the upcoming year.

"Many businesses are currently reviewing their 2012 business insurance to have it locked in for January 1st" says Butch Zemar, Chief Sales Officer at Elite Benefits of America. "As they claw their way out of this recession, cutting back is one of the only options. Insurance is one area that should not be cut. Businesses, as well as consumers, need to review all insurance programs annually with an insurance agent."

During an annual business insurance review, a business will be reviewing employee benefits, general liability coverage, workman's compensation and commercial auto coverage just to name a few. All of the coverages are important but each business has a specific need based on their situation. Many businesses forget about adding coverage they should have and find themselves in a situation they do not want to be in at the time of a loss. It is very important for businesses, and consumers, to review all their insurance needs every year to make sure they do not leave anything to chance.

"Looking for areas to cut cost seems to be more of the norm and businesses are using insurance as one of those areas," says Zemar. "Businesses buy insurance to protect their financial health. By lowering insurance limits, or worse, eliminating coverage just to cut cost is not only making a huge mistake but it is also setting the business up for a negative financial impact that can push them over the edge to the abyss in this tough recession." Zemar continues.

Today, more than ever, the business world and life itself changes consistently. Anytime there is a change, your insurance should move needs to be adjusted. There is the possibility that despite the recession, a business could be growing and had an increase in building space, staff, or equipment and an increase of insurance coverage is needed. The insurance agent reviewing the insurance policy needs to know about these changes so they can address it appropriately with the insurance policy.

Elite Benefits of America is scheduling webinars with that change. Maybe a business has downsized or sold off equipment and the insurance next year to assist business owners as well as individuals in meeting their insurance needs. For more information or to schedule a business insurance review, call Butch Zemar, Elite Benefits of America at 708-535-3006. For more information, go to www.EliteBenefits.net.

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We have found that through the years of publishing the readers are interested in general information and also local happenings within their community. Therefore because we are fully electronic, we will not be accepting faxed or mailed news releases.

Louis S. Viverito, Supervisor of Stickney Township Announces Sertoma Hearing Screening

Stickney Township Office on Aging, 7745 S. Leamington Ave in Burbank, will be hosting a Hearing Screening on Wednesday, February 15, 2012 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. sponsored by Sertoma.

Sertoma is an international, service organization that helps speech and hearing impaired people at all stages of life from newborns to seniors. Sertoma has 32,000 members nationwide with 750 members in Illinois and Wisconsin.

Sertoma Speech and Hearing Center is a comprehensive, speech and hearing health-care organization that treats approximately 13,000 patients a year at their three clinics. To schedule an appointment for the hearing screening, please call Stickney Township Office on Aging at 708-636-8850.

Illinois Mortgage Relief Project Comes To Orland Park

New Program Helps Homeowners Avoid Foreclosure

The Illinois Mortgage Relief Project helps homeowners take advantage of new government programs to help lower mortgage payments, avoid foreclosure and help residents keep their homes.

The Village of Orland Park will co-host the Mortgage Relief Project on Saturday, February 18, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the Orland Park Civic Center , 14750 South Ravinia Avenue .

"We want to be sure that people who are struggling to keep their homes are aware of everything available to them," said Orland Park Mayor Dan McLaughlin. "These programs exist to help people stay in their homes and we want to do all that we can to help make that happen," he added.

The free workshop will include information about mortgage refinancing, foreclosure prevention, legal rights, credit counseling and how to avoid scam artists. Homeowners may also receive private, one-on-one housing counseling with HUD-certified counselors.

"Unfortunately, the mortgage foreclosure crisis has continued to affect too many homeowners, including those here in the southwest suburbs," said Orland Park Village Trustee Carole Griffin Ruzich. "Too often, people don't realize what options they have and as a result, just walk away from their homes. If someone is facing foreclosure or are concerned that they might be in the future, I strongly encourage them to come to this event," she said.

Mayor McLaughlin is co-hosting the event along with the Illinois Governor's and Lieutenant Governor's Offices, Illinois State Senator Maggie Crotty and State Representative Al Riley. It is also sponsored by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, the Illinois Housing Development Authority and Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan.

"Orland Park is very pleased to bring this program to the area. We're hoping that anyone who needs help will come learn about what's available," McLaughlin said.

Attendees should bring their latest mortgage documents, including all bills, statements and notices. They should bring their two most recent pay stubs and their driver's licenses or state identification cards. A full list of documents needed to complete an application for loan modification is available at www.idfpr.com..

'Illinois' Education Reforms Recognized by Key National Report"

Robin Steans, Executive Director of the bipartisan education policy and advocacy group, Advance Illinois, issued this statement following news today that Illinois' ranking in education policy and performance in Education Week's annual Quality Counts Report has risen from 40th to 29th in the nation – a significant one-year jump.

"While we are not content that Illinois remains in the middle of the national pack, today's results are yet another sign that we are moving in the right direction. Illinois has put significant reforms in place over the past two years, and this year's rise in the rankings reflects a great deal of effort and leadership around the state. We can be proud that we have achieved such substantial gains, and that we have created a strong foundation for further reform. That said, there is lots of work yet to do. Our students deserve an education system that leads the nation, and we are not there yet. What this progress tells us is that we can do better when we put our minds to it. Advance Illinois looks forward to continued progress."

Advance Illinois, is an independent, objective voice to promote a public education system in Illinois that prepares all students to be ready for work, college and democratic citizenship.

Orland Township Open for 2011 Cook County Board OF Review Appeals

Orland Township is now open to accept 2011 Board of Review appeals from now through Wednesday, February 8, 2012. If you need assistance in preparing your appeal, please call the Orland Township Assessor's Office at your earliest convenience to schedule an appointment. 2011 appeal forms can be downloaded directly from the Board of Review website: www.cookcountyboardofreview.com or we have a limited number of appeal forms that can picked up at the Orland Township Office as well. Another option available to Cook County residents is "On-Line" appeal filing for 2011 Board of Review appeals. You can go to the Board of Review website for easy step-by-step instructions for the on-line appeal process. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call the Orland Township Assessor's Office at 708-403-4222.

Thinking of advertising for 2012?

Call 312-624-8996 or email vvnew@sbcglobal.net. for our 2012 Media Kit.

Park Lawn takes auction to next level

Local nonprofit Park Lawn is taking reservations for the 2nd Annual "A Rhapsody in Blue" scheduled for Saturday, February 4 at Double Tree Hotel in Alsip, IL.

The evening theme will be a "Blue Hawaii" getaway. This theme runs parallel to the drawing of a "Hawaii Trip for Two" raffle that will occur the same night with tickets being sold separately. Attendees of "A Rhapsody in Blue" dinner and auction can expect a Hawaiian greeting by Hula Chicago and Park Lawn participants who benefit Park Lawn programs. Guest can expect a musical backdrop during cocktail hour by Aloha Chicago. Following that will be an open bar, dinner, live and silent auctions, and then dancing to live music by Sundance. Auction attendees will be treated like celebrities when Park Lawn's photographer captures a special moment of guests with a commemorative keepsake photo. Cocktail attire is required and everyone can wear blue to show their Park Lawn support.

Live auction items will include 4 passes to Walt Disney World; an aerobatic thrill ride; Chicago Bears tailgating package and more.

Another highlight of the Live Auction will be the "Fund-A-Cause". The money raised through the "Fund-A-Cause" will support additional music and art therapy for Park Lawn's GRACE program that works with aging individuals with developmental disabilities. Park Lawn has been working with Institute for Therapy through the Arts since 2005 with music therapy one weekday. Through this experience, Park Lawn staff has seen the improvements it provides and would like to increase music therapy for the GRACE program to two weekdays and add art therapy.

Tickets are also available to participate in the "Hawaii Trip for Two" raffle and only 400 tickets will be sold. The winners will be able to explore Honolulu and Maui and see the Arizona Memorial and tour the USS Missouri. The trip includes two round trip airfare and inner airfare, 5 star hotels and a car rental in Maui. Tickets will be sold separately from the auction.

Sponsors of "A Rhapsody in Blue" include Standard Bank & Trust Inc., The Private Bank, Grey Hill & Associates, Brady Photography, Hob Nob Wine and the Chocolate Diva. Decorations and centerpieces are provided from Cheri Boublis, Jean Fornal, Connie Karlovic, Patti Lynch, Cheryl Orlowski, Julie Partacz, Charles and Maureen Reilly, and Victoria Scanlon.

Proceeds from "A Rhapsody in Blue" will benefit Park Lawn's mission to provide services that promote independence, choice and access to community living for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Park Lawn is a non-profit organization offering a variety of programs and services such as adult developmental training, residential facilities, vocational training, supported employment and more for individuals with developmental disabilities since 1955. More information about Park Lawn can be found at www.parklawn.com.

The Bridgeview Public Library will be holding a blood drive

Tuesday, February 7th from 2:00pm-6:00pm . 7840 W 79th St.

To schedule your appointment, please call (708) 458-2880 ext. 105 or stop by the Reference Desk.

For qualification questions, please call 1-800-7TO-GIVE.

Photo ID Required! Cause and Effect: You Give. People Live. Heartland Blood Centers.

Donate blood at the library to receive an exclusive T-Shirt as a way of saying "thank you" for your life-saving blood donation.

Smith Village program specialist Martina Wessels monitors Maureen Weiss during one of her regular workouts in the Smith Village Senior FITness Center.

Smith Crossing fitness specialist Karen Braswell instructs resident Gloria Chyrchel, who is conscientious about keeping her exercise appointments at the CCRC's fitness center.

Smith Crossing and Smith Village advocate healthy efforts for winter

Heavy snows and frigid temperatures can discourage people from getting out for regular workout routines. Consequently, being indoors for the next couple of months can take its toll both physically and mentally, says Karen Braswell, fitness specialist at Smith Crossing, a continuing care retirement community (CCRC) in south suburban Orland Park. "That's why it's important, no matter what your physical abilities, to work up some sort of exercise program."

A routine can be as rigorous as walking several miles indoors or as simple as sitting in a chair doing stretching exercises.

For individuals who have challenges getting outside or for those restricted to more sedentary lifestyles, Braswell suggests the following exercise while sitting in an armchair: Lift your chin and move your head in circular motions; move your shoulders in circular motions; move your arms out to the side and over your head; twist your torso to the left and right; move your feet in circular motions, and lift your legs.

"Motions such as these, repeated for 10 to 20 minutes each day can do a lot to improve circulation and strength," says Braswell. "Doing this routine with a friend can be doubly fun."

Using an elliptical machine is great for getting a cardio vascular workout with no impact to the joints. "If you don't have access to such equipment, safe walking and even minimal stretching routines can go a long way to increase flexibility and circulation. This can be very important for relieving joint and muscle stiffness and even preventing stroke," she explains.

For optimum health it's absolutely essential to stick to your routine—especially during winter, says Martina Wessels, program specialist for the Senior FITness Center at Smith Village, another CCRC in Chicago's South Side Beverly neighborhood. Here, 245 residents—about 70 percent of the community—work out on a regular basis. The exercisers include independent living residents, assisted living residents, and those receiving memory support services.

"Commitment to exercise must be non-negotiable," Wessels insists. "If not performed regularly, the benefits are lost almost immediately. For busy days when optimum workouts are not possible, I suggest having an express routine as back-up. This can be a shorter workout that still achieves a baseline result so you don't lose ground."

The benefits of exercise are proven. That list includes: increased muscle strength, more energy, increased immunity and endurance, better balance, increased flexibility, improved heart and lung function, better regulation of blood sugar levels, lower blood pressure, more restful sleep, reduced soreness, improved digestion, stroke prevention, relief from depression and more.

Warm up period is essential

Safety is the key, according to both Braswell and Wessels. The first step in developing a routine is checking with your doctor: determine any limitations due to your health and discuss the types of exercise that will benefit you the most. No matter your current conditioning levels, it's always good to build in a 10-minute warm up period before starting any intense workout session. Also, select a safe place to exercise.

"If you decide to exercise outside, keep in mind that it may be best to avoid sidewalks covered with snow and ice as well as wet and slippery mall floors," says Wessels. "Even so, if you do decide to brave the outdoors, be sure to dress in layers that you can take off as you warm up and put back on as you cool down."

Many neighborhood community centers have swimming pools. If you can't swim, consider water walking in shallow water, Wessels advises. This is a great exercise.

"For some people, working out with a partner who has around the same ability level can offer added safety and motivational benefits" Wessels adds.

"Whether people enjoy working out alone or with others depends a lot on how social they are, but either way the benefits of exercise are undeniable," Braswell says. "Exercise improves health and attitude."

Both Smith Village and Smith Crossing have exercise rooms that maintain weight machines, stationary bikes and elliptical workout machines for residents. They also offer balance classes and encourage the use of hand weights and stretchy bands to maintain arm, hand and upper body strength.

"Making time for exercise is necessary for maintaining fitness for life," Braswell says. "Sticking to a routine—making workout appointments with yourself and keeping them—works best."

About Smith Senior Living

Smith Crossing in Orland Park and Smith Village in Chicago's Beverly neighborhood offer resort-style retirement living with full-service amenities. They provide gracious residences for independent living, assisted living, memory support, and skilled nursing care and rehabilitation services.

Both are highly regarded retirement communities that make it possible for seniors to enjoy a vibrant, active lifestyle while relying on the support and healthcare services they need. And they are part of Smith Senior Living, a not-for-profit organization established in 1924 on the site of Smith Village's new campus.

For more information about how Smith Senior Living can help seniors enjoy their retirement, call Smith Crossing in Orland Park at 708-326-2300 or visit SmithCrossing.org. For Smith Village in Chicago, call 773-474-7300 or visit SmithVillage.org.

Photo by
Wehmeier Portraits

Orland Park Area Chamber Installs 2012 Board

Tami Khuntia Installed as New President

State Representative Renee Kosel will install the 2012 Board of Directors for the Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce during a ceremony to be held at Silver Lake Country Club on Thursday, January 19 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Silver Lake Country Club is located at 14700 S. 82nd Avenue in Orland Park . All are welcome to attend. The cost for the evening is $45 per person and includes heavy hors d'oeuvres and beer, wine and soft drinks. RSVP to the Chamber office at 708-349-2972.

Tami Khuntia , owner of Sparks Complete Auto, will be installed as the Chamber's President for 2012. Sparks Complete Auto has been a member of the Chamber for over 7 years. She was born and raised in Puri , India and immigrated to the United States shortly after her marriage. Khuntia, who holds a degree in Economics and her husband Kamal, have owned and operated their Orland Park car repair business since 1986. Khuntia's involvement in the Chamber includes serving as a current member of the Legislative Committee and previous Co-Chairman of the Membership Committee in addition to her regular attendance at Chamber sponsored events.

Other new Board members installed for 2012 include Glen Borkowski, DreamMaker Bath & Kitchen; Ed Schussler, Village of Orland Park Trustee and retired attorney; Michelle Sabbia, Resident and Community Liaison, Alden Estates of Orland Park and Renee Tabor owner of Metamorphosis, a consulting group. The Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce is a not-for-profit organization that serves as the primary resource for business and the community in Orland Park and the surrounding suburbs.

Worth Park District

Senior Lunch Bunch

Take a trip with us to local restaurants each month. Enjoy a variety of options. Indulge in your own taste and spend as much or as little as you would like! Let us do the driving as you relax with friends! Menu will be available at time of registration. Pay for your portion of the check at time of trip. February 8th we will be going to Glenwood Oaks in Glenwood, IL. from 10:30 – 2pm. Please register by Oct. 5th at Terrace Centre.

Senior Luncheon

Calling all Seniors! Enjoy a delicious homemade lunch, bingo and conversation with old and new friends. Residents and non-residents are encouraged to attend. Please register and reserve your spot today! Senior Lunch will be on Wednesday, February 16 from 12:00 – 2:00 PM. The cost is $ 5.00 preregistration and $ 7.00 at the door. The Terrace Centre is located at 11500 S. Beloit.

Museum Feature Display – History of the Girl Scouts

From January to March 2 we will be displaying a special exhibit to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Girl Scouts with an interesting tie into local scouting groups. Learn the early beginnings and the impact the Girl Scouts have had in Illinois. The Terrace Centre Museum is located at 11500 S. Beloit.

Worth Park District is located at 11500 S. Beloit (3 Blocks West of Harlem on 115th Street).

The Worth park District Historical Museum is having a special display from Now until March 15th featuring the 100 year anniversary of the Girl Scouts. The Museum is a part of the passport program for the Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana. Come in and see the history of the scouts in the southland region. The museum is open Monday-Friday from 9am-6pm. Curator hours vary. The museum is located at 11500 s Beloit in Worth.

The Worth Museum is proud to host author David Witter on Wednesday, February 22nd at 7pm. Mr. Witter will discuss "Oldest Chicago", that features dozens of local treasures in Chicago, suburban and exurban areas. The discussion is free and is held at 11500 s Beloit, at the Worth Park District.

For more information, please call the Worth Park District at (708) 448-7080 or visit www.worthparkdistrict.org

Evergreen Park Public Library

Meet Author Gioia Dilberto, Paris Without End

On Tuesday, January 17 at 7:00 pm, the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 S. Troy will host a presentation and book signing for author Gioia Dilbertos. Ms. Dilberto will sign copies of her book, Paris Without End: The True Story of Hadley Richardson Hemingway, available for $12 purchase before or after the presentation. Registration required.

Miss Lori's Playstory Time!

On Wednesday, Jan 18 at 10:00 am at the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 South Troy, ages 1-6 years are invited to meet Miss Lori, of WTTW's Miss Lori's Campus. She'll share her own original stories and songs with your preschooler!

Duct Tape Wallets at the Evergreen Park Public Library!

On Wednesday, January 18 from 3:30 to 4:30 pm at the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 South Troy, teens, grades 6-12, will learn how to make a duct tape wallet. All materials provided. Registration required.

Movie Presentation

Adults are invited to celebrate Ernest Hemingway month on Thursday, January 19 at 10:30 am by watching "Midnight in Paris" [PG-13] on our big screen. Registration required.

Learn How to Download Audio & eBooks

Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 S. Troy, will host "Learn How to Download Audio & eBooks" on Thursday, January 19 at 6:30 pm. Chris Raap, Evergreen Park Public Library Head of Reference will provide a demonstration, as well as answer any specific questions. Participants are asked to bring their digital device (audio or e-reader). Registration required.

Scrabble Game Night!

On Thursday, January 19 at 6:30 pm at the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 South Troy, players of all ages and abilities are invited to play against each other for fun in an evening of quiet, friendly competition. We'll supply the Scrabble boards.

Pokemon Club

Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 S. Troy, offers a Pokemon Club for children, grades first through fifth, on Wednesday, January 20 at. 3:30 pm. Participants are asked to bring their Nintendo DS, games, and trading cards to the meeting. Registration required.

Winter Birds

On Saturday, January 21 at 3:00 pm Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 S. Troy, invites grades five and under to listen to stories about winter birds, decorate a paper birdhouse, and make a pine cone treat for our feathered friends. Registration required.

For more information or to register, please call (708) 422-8522.

Live Music at Marrs-Meyer American Legion Post 991

Marrs-Meyer American Legion Post 991, 11001 S Depot - Worth, IL. Live Music - No Cover Charge - 8PM-11PM

Fridays Bobby Dunne, Saturdays John Devlin & Friends. Bar Open to Public, 708/448-7006.

Village of Orland Park Chili Challenge Spices Up the Season, Annual Chili Challenge Returns

The spicy aroma of simmering chili will fill the air when chili cooks from throughout the United States converge on Orland Park to compete in the Village of Orland Park 's annual "Chilly Willie Chili Challenge."

The regional competition will be held on Saturday, January 21, 2012 at the Orland Park Civic Center, 14750 South Ravinia Avenue . (Ravinia Avenue is one block west of LaGrange Road/U.S. Route 45.) The public tasting at the competition will be held from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m., or until the chili runs out, whichever comes first. All-you-can-eat "tasting cups" will be available for chili lovers to purchase for five dollars each.

The International Chili Society (ICS) and the Chili Appreciation Society International (CASI) will hold competitions for red chili and salsa, along with conducting two other contests at this year's event. Verde, a green chili, will be judged and a People's Choice Award will be bestowed upon the winner determined by the public tasting.

"As guests arrive, each will receive a ticket to leave with the cook of the chili they like best to determine the People's Choice Award," explained Trustee Pat Gira, Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee.

"The cook with the most tickets at the end of the event will be declared the People's Choice Award winner," she added.

Local cooks are invited to join the competition. Applications are available at the Frederick T. Owens Village Hall and the Recreation Administration Building.

"Eighty to ninety judges are needed to judge this event in order to make it a success," Gira added. Any individuals interested in judging the challenge should contact Patty Vlazny at 708/403-6145.

The winner of the ICS competition will qualify for the nationals held in Omaha, Nebraska, while the CASI top ten winners receive points to add to their total which will qualify cooks for their national competition held in Terlingua, Texas.

Proceeds from the event benefit the Village of Orland Park 's Open Lands Program and Orland Park Theatre Troupe. For more information about Orland Park's annual Chilly Willie Chili Challenge, call the Village of Orland Park Recreation and Parks Department at 708/403-7275.

St. Damian 21st annual gala event

St. Damian School is proud to host their 21st Annual Fashion Gala Event at Gaelic Park in Oak Forest. St. Damian students, from preschool to 8th grade, will "dance" in the show, including parents and teachers. We are also proud to welcome our new Pastor, Father Joe Noonan, to his first Fashion Gala Event! This primary fundraiser will benefit the students of St. Damian School and help them reach for their dreams!

The Fashion Gala will be Thursday, February 16th, 5:30pm Cocktails and Raffle/Silent Auction room will be open, 7:00pm dinner, 8:00pm Fashion Show. Raffle/Silent Auction prizes include: American Girl Basket, George W. Dunne Golf Course Package, Cooper's Hawk Wine Basket, Shedd Aquarium Package, and many more!

Tickets are $40 per person and on sale now. Please contact Lori Ward 687.4230 for tickets and further information.

Most Holy Redeemer School hosts early childhood open house

Most Holy Redeemer School will be hosting an Early Childhood Open House for preschool and kindergarten on January 19th at 7:00 pm. This is an opportunity to visit our classrooms, meet the teachers and learn about our faith-centered curriculum.

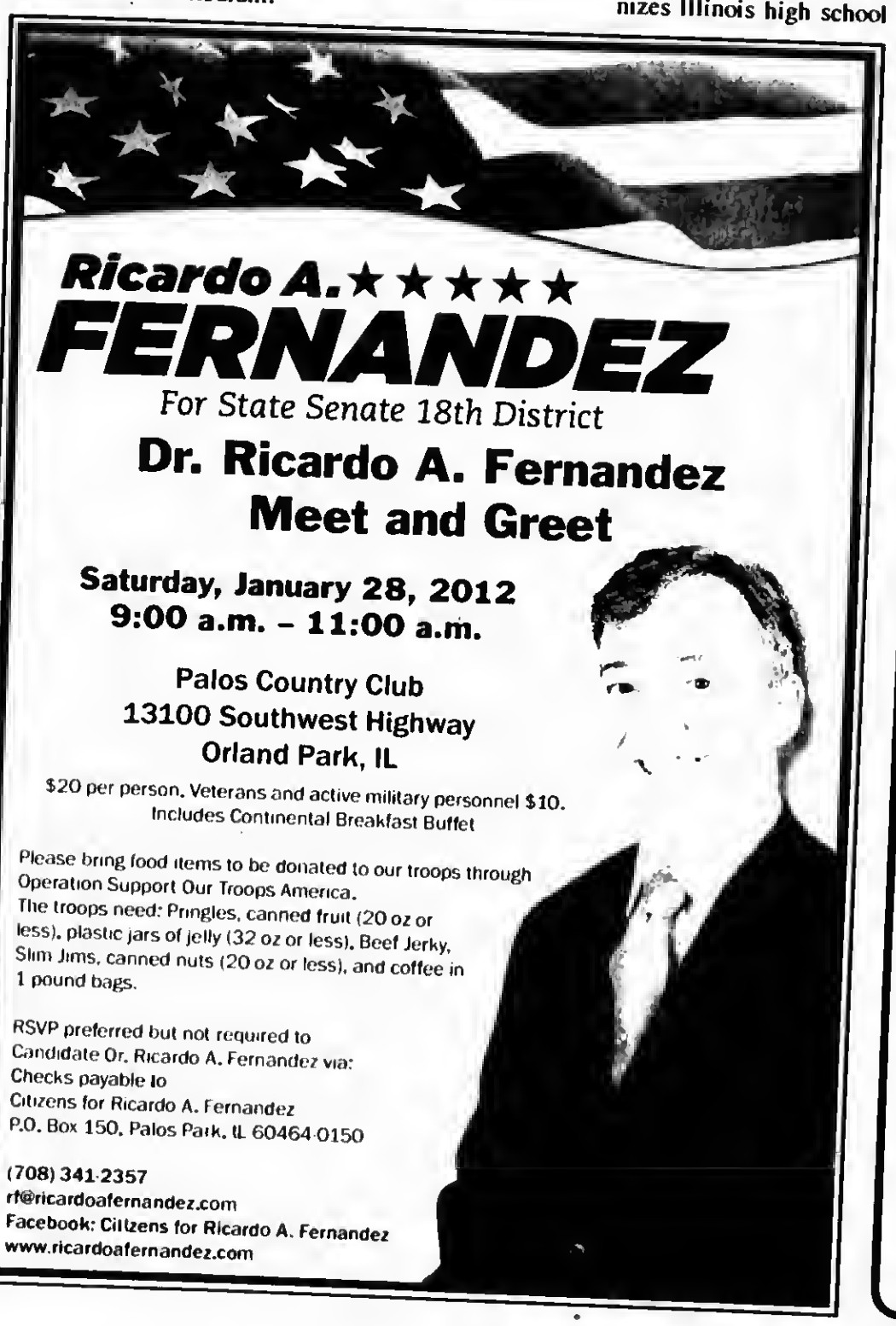
Most Holy Redeemer School will be hosting an Open House for grades preschool-8th following our Catholic Schools Week Mass at 9:30am on Sunday, January 22nd. Please join us and see how Most Holy Redeemer students grow in "Faith, Academics and Service." For more information, please call 708-422-8280 or search our website www.mhrschool.com

Marian Catholic School names Illinois State Scholars

Marian Catholic High School is proud to announce that 48 members of the Class of 2012 have earned recognition as Illinois State Scholars. The Illinois Student Assistance Commission recognizes Illinois high school students for outstanding academic achievement based on standardized test scores and class rank. Another seven students who met the Illinois State Scholar criteria live in Indiana. "To see the list of Illinois State Scholars every year is always enjoyable for the administration and faculty of Marian Catholic, who invest so much time and effort in each student," said Dr. Shirley Morris, Vice Principal of Academics. "We are very proud of this group of students and wish them and the rest of the class of 2012 success as they complete their final semester at Marian and go on to college in the fall."

These 48 students are in the top 10 percent of the state's more than 135,000 graduating seniors. Illinois State Scholars, which number more than 13 percent of the Marian Catholic Class of 2012, include: Front Row: Michelle Longo (Chicago Heights), Kelsey Tierney (Tinley Park), Nina Trlak (Park Forest), Stephanie Werner (Homewood), Torianna Crawford (Country Club Hills), Deandre Tate-Drummer (Glenwood), Kelly Foley (Chicago Heights), Candice Marden (Monee), Bernadette Senick (Tinley Park), Benjamin David (Chicago), Taylor Jones (Schererville), and Chelsea Davis (Crete). Second Row: Kelly Gregorovic (Lansing), Alexis Funk (Dyer), Gianna Patrizi (Orland Park), Summer Fields (Richton Park), Camille Johnson (South Holland), Nicole Panozzo (Tinley Park), Alexis Jones (Olympia Fields), Trevor Thompkins (Olympia Fields), Jose Saenz (Richton Park), and Bridget Goedke (Park Forest). Third Row: David Tiberi (Chicago Heights), Jason Lamano (Orland Hills), Matt Wilk (Olympia Fields), Kelly Lane (South Holland), Johnathon Brodeur (Steger), Ryan Thier (Oak Forest), Michael Peabody (Flossmoor), Shelby Cosman (St. John), Paul deBustros (Flossmoor), Amber Williams (Richton Park), Niccole Nelson (Tinley Park), Morgan Hirschfield (Crete), and Michael Irwin (Frankfort). Fourth Row: Patrick O'Shea (Munster), Aaron Dunajeski (Dyer), Jason Kint (Crete), Ryan Hutchison (Dyer), Matthew Anderson (Tinley Park), Matthew Grybas (Frankfort), Nicholas Moorman (Dyer), Mitchell Zavesky (Flossmoor), Bill Hilger (Oak Forest), Thomas Ryan (Chicago Heights), and Timothy Dannels (Park Forest). Not Pictured: Robert Cifelli (Chicago Heights) and Helena Mierzwa (Crete).

Are you running for Election? Let everyone know what your issues are and what you stand for. Call Linda at 312-624-8996 I can help you with your ad.



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The Maids Chicago prevents Flu from spreading in homes

Local cleaning service offers helpful tips to clean and disinfect against the flu

Flu season is no joke. The muscle aches, fever, chills and fatigue that accompany the virus affect five to 20 percent of the U.S. population each year and hospitalize hundreds of thousands, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

Many of us are armed with an array of physical preventative, from flu-shots to Emergency-C packets, neti-pots to home remedies, but what are we doing to stop the illness from spreading in our own homes, amongst our families and community members?

"We have lots of clients call us this time of year to make sure their homes are getting the deep clean they need to stay healthy," said Melanie Moran, owner of The Maids Oak Lawn. "If you've ever had the flu you know it's worth the extra step to protect your friends and family."

Cleaning experts at The Maids clean for health year-round and recommend the following 10 tips to stop the flu virus from invading homes in the Chicago area:

1. Wash your hands regularly in warm soapy water. For quick clean-up, use antibacterial hand sanitizer. Make an effort not to touch your mouth or nose without first washing your hands.

2. Wear rubber gloves when cleaning household items to protect yourself. By wearing gloves, you will be less likely to touch your eyes, nose or mouth, which are havens for the flu virus.

3.Spray disinfecting spray on a cloth, wipe toys, doorknobs, appliance handles, keyboards, remote controls, light switches, phones and facial tissue box covers. Viruses can live up to 48 hours on hard surfaces.

4. Wash items like towels and bedding in hot water with soap if someone has been sick in the home. Be sure not to share these items until they are thoroughly cleaned.

5. Change vacuum bags monthly or more frequently.

6. Boil toothbrushes for one minute in water and vinegar, run through a dishwasher cycle or purchase new brushes.

7. Use antibacterial wipes on your keyboard, phone and pens to protect yourself from spreading germs at work.

8. Wash telephones, cabinet handles, doorknobs, light switches and refrigerator door handles using a slightly dampened cloth with a solution of mild detergent and warm water.

9. Wash mop heads in a solution of ¼ cup bleach and one gallon water, dry thoroughly, then store. Not only will mop heads pick up germs and dirt, but they also can also grow mold and mildew if they don't dry out completely.

10.Disinfect the bathroom and kitchen, especially the faucet and toilet handles, daily. The kitchen and bathroom are the most used rooms in the home and possibly the most contaminated.

The Maids is a residential cleaning service that uses a 22-step approach to clean each home for health, combining environmentally preferable cleaning supplies and state-of-the-art equipment to maintain the healthiest living environment possible.

If you're worried about the flu virus showing up uninvited, give The Maids a call to schedule a cleaning.

To find The Maids location nearest you or for more cleaning tips, visit www.maids.com.

Stay Safe and Warm During Winter Storms

Extreme winter winds, unpredictable amounts of snow and rain, and fluctuating temperatures can result in severe freezing rain, sleet, and ice storms. Heavy accumulations of ice can bring down utility poles, trees, and limbs, potentially resulting in power outages and property damage. In addition to shutting down power, snow and ice can make transportation dangerous, if not impossible.

All these factors make it difficult to cope with a winter storm once it hits, so preparation is essential. To prepare, the Energy Education Council's Safe Electricity program recommends that you have the following items on hand before a storm hits:

·Flashlights with fresh batteries.

·Matches for lighting candles and gas stoves or clean burning heaters.

·Wood for a properly ventilated fireplace.

·Prescription medicines and baby supplies.

·Food that can be kept in coolers and a manual can opener.

·Anon-cordless telephone and/or fully charged cellular phone.

·Bottled drinking water.

·Battery-powered emergency lights and radio.

A home generator can also be helpful as long as you are familiar with safe operating procedures.

"To be truly prepared you need more than supplies. You need to know what to do when a storm strikes," advises Molly Hall, executive director of the Safe Electricity program. "Winter storms can cause severe damage to power lines, which creates safety risks. After a storm, avoid going outside if possible."

Downed power lines could be submerged in snow and ice, making them difficult to identify. When outside, treat all downed and hanging lines as if they are energized. Stay away, warn others to stay away, and immediately contact your utility company. Remember that downed power lines do NOT have to be arcing, sparking, or moving to be "live", and deadly.

When the power is out during a winter storm. Safe Electricity suggests these tips to stay safe:

·Stay inside, and dress in warm, layered clothing.

·Close off unneeded rooms.

·When using an alternative heat source, follow operating instructions, use fire safeguards, and be sure to properly ventilate. Always keep a multipurpose, dry-chemical fire extinguisher nearby, and know how to use it.

·Stuff towels and rags underneath doors to keep the heat in.

·Cover windows at night.

·Keep a close eye on the temperature in your home. Infants and people over the age of 65 are more susceptible to the cold. You may want to stay with friends or relatives or go to a shelter if you can't keep your home warm.

Winter storms can create hazardous and stressful conditions, but with the proper knowledge and preparation, you can stay safe and warm.

For more information on winter outages, generator safety, and more, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Children of all ages can learn to dive

Children's diving programs are conducted by Sherry Hammer. The SASY programs are for kids ages five to eight. They can enroll in the Scal Team and Master Seal Team programs as well as the snorkeling courses and even CPR. At age 10, children can enroll in the full SCUBA certification courses. We're proud of the fact that our range of programs appeals to ages 5 to 75. Ask about the "BubbleMaker" which is a great way to introduce children to breathing underwater!

Earn your Scuba Diving Merit Badge!

Scuba Emporium wants to teach the Scuba Diving portion, so we are offering a special program just for Scouts. We will schedule a special class just for your troop. You must have a minimum of 6 students in the class.

To sign up, contact Mark or Patrick at 708-226-1614 or Mark@scubaemporium.com patrick@scubaemporium.com

Reaching across Illinois Library Systems and the services RAILS provides

The Illinois Library Association (ILA) announces that Illinois Library Day will be held on April 18, 2012. Illinois Library Day, held in Springfield, is a time for library supporters to visit with elected officials during the state legislative session. Activities also include training and special briefings before the full day of visits.

Presidents' Day Library Legislative Breakfast The tradition continues on February 20, 2012 for the twenty-second year for this popular breakfast with the Illinois legislative leadership for the north and northwest suburbs.

This breakfast will give you the opportunity to meet with your legislators and speak with them about issues affecting you and your library. Library trustees, directors, and staff from public, school, are encouraged to attend and participate. More information can be found at: http://bit.ly/wLS1sh.

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Tuesday, Feb. 7, 6:30 to 8pm
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Smith Village and Smith Crossing welcome volunteers

Smith Village and Smith Crossing welcome volunteers 1-hour orientations set for Saturdays, Jan. 21 and 28.

With Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day on the horizon, it's time to get serious about your New Year's resolution to be helpful to others.

Two Southland continuing care retirement communities are seeking volunteers for just such special occasions and are ready to welcome new volunteers to a one-hour orientation session. At 10 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 21, Smith Village, at 2320 W. 113th Place in Chicago's Beverly neighborhood, will hold its first orientation of the year. At 10 a.m. the next Saturday, Jan. 28, Smith Crossing will have an orientation on its campus at 10501 Emilie Lane in Orland Park (located near the intersection of 104th Avenue and 183rd Street). Orientation is required before volunteers can begin their assignments and it includes a brief overview of available volunteer opportunities and a short tour of the campus. Prior to attending orientation on either campus, a mandatory on-line application is required. To do this, visit www.SmithSeniorLiving.org, click "Volunteer" in the left column and follow the on-screen instructions. After your application is submitted, you will receive an e-mail confirming the next orientation date. "We appreciate everything volunteers do for our residents," says Mike Flynn, CEO of Smith Senior Living, which sponsors both communities. "Our volunteers bring new interests, fresh perspectives and a renewed enthusiasm to our organized activities and outings."

Carl Jung used Astrology to diagnose patients

by Jan Glaz

Carl Gustav Jung, the famed psychiatrist known for his cutting edge methods of unraveling the causes of mental illness became an excellent Astrologer, but why, what led the Master of analytical psychology to believe in Astrology; to add horoscopes into his medical tool bag, and then use them to diagnose patients?

The answer dates back to 1944 when Carl Jung suffered a heart attack accompanied by an intense out of body episode in which he saw a precise view of the Earth from over a thousand miles out. His accurate description of outer space would match what astronauts described decades later, more importantly, the experience led to his acceptance of a Higher Self, a God within, and a Collective Unconscious. He even fashioned a word many of us use today, synchronicity, to define the interrelatedness of our Universe and to give meaning to coincidences and other strange phenomena. Astrological concepts fit nicely with synchronicity and the archetypes of the collective unconscious, so he cast horoscopes of his patients and then studied them. In 1954 Jung was quoted as saying, "There are many analogies which can be made between the horoscope and the character disposition. There is even the possibility of certain predictive powers. The horoscope seems to correspond to psychic archetypes."

Carl Jung, born on July 26, 1875, is a Leo. Sun sign enthusiasts are familiar with the attributes of a Leo, but sun sign interpretation is modified to a greater or lesser extent by any planet or planets in close mathematical relationship to them. It so happens that our psychiatrist's Leo Sun is married to Neptune in an EXACT 90 degree configuration: Sun 3 degrees Leo; Neptune 3 degrees Taurus. Neptune symbolizes all things mystical, spiritual, ethereal, etc... It is this Sun/Neptune aspect that speaks of an ability to consciously partake in a near-death experience. What is even more revealing is that Neptune signifies DREAMS. Carl Jung pioneered the use of dream analysis, believing that dreams communicate with our subconscious mind and that the subconscious is the key to our mental health.

Carl Jung also studied the horoscopes of hundreds of married couples; utilizing the astrological connections between the charts of partners he discovered the longest lasting marriages had distinct pairings which were three times higher than coincidence, the reported odds being 1 in 62,500,000. Ptolemy, the ancient Greek scientist and astrologer reported the same findings. There is no doubt that our Solar System has an effect on our planet and our human bodies.

"There shall be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars." – Jesus Christ, Luke 21:25

Jan Glaz: astrojan10@yahoo.

Things to Do In Evergreen Park

Winter swim sessions are available at Evergreen Park High School at 9901 S. Kedzie Ave. For more information Call the Rec. Dept at 708- 229-3373 or 708-229-3374. Evergreen Park Girls Softball Registration will be on Jan.21st, 2012 from 9am-1pm at the Hamilton B. Maher Community Center (at 450 W. 97th Street) for more information call or email (President) Ray Richter at 708-717-6510 (RDRICHTER@comcast.net) or Bill Kehoe at 708-557-6908.

Evergreen Park ICE RINK IS NOW OPEN!!! at 9000 S. Kedzie Ave Open Skate daily 5 to 7pm Tuesday thru Friday. Rent the Rink . For more information call 708-229-3373, look at page 2 of the recreational book , or go to www.evergreenpark-ill.com/departments/recreation

The Evergreen Park Youth Dept. has teens looking for work. Hire village teens to help shovel snow, clean out the attic, basement or garage. Call 708-229-3377.Evergreen Park Mini-Bus is the best deal in town . The outstanding services of the Office of Citizen's Services provide transportation and more for seniors and disabled adults of EP. For more info. call OCS at 708-422-8776.

Immanuel Community Preschool ,9815 S. Campbell, will host an Open House on Thurs. Jan. 19th from 5:30 pm - 7:00pm. Parents will have the opportunity to meet the teachers, tour the school and register for the upcoming 2012-2013 school year.

Evergreen Park High School at 9901 S. Kedzie Ave.), Evergreen Park, Mustang Athletic Booster's will have a "Garage Sale" in the main gym. It will be Feb. 11, 2012 9am-3pm. For more information go to www.evergreenpark.org

If you are affected by the cold, shelter is provided at the Comm. Center (3450 W. 97th street) Mon.-Fri. from 9am-10pm and Sat. 9am-noon. To get alerted about emergencies and other important community news go to www.evergreenpark-ill.com and enter at the Citizen Alert Notification sign-up.

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www.stpatriciaparish.com
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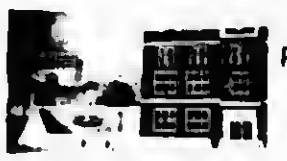

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Moraine Valley to host medical presentation on plastic surgery

Moraine Valley Community College will host a Medical Education Series presentation on "Scars and Plastic Surgery: What is New?" from 7 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 8, in the college's Dorothy Menker Theater in the Fine and Performing Arts Center, 9000 W. College Pkwy., Palos Hills.

The event is cosponsored by Northwestern Memorial Hospital and is free and open to the public. Dr. Robert D. Galiano will lead this presentation. Dr. Galiano is an assistant professor of surgery at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. He graduated from Washington University with a Bachelor of Arts in Biology and English Literature before receiving a Doctor of Medicine degree from Northwestern University.

Dr. Galiano completed his plastic surgery residency at the Institute of Reconstructive Plastic Surgery of New York University Medical Center. He performs aesthetic surgery on the face and body in addition to reconstructive surgery with an interest in facial surgery, complex wound care, microsurgery, breast reconstruction, and limb salvage. He has won several awards for his scientific and clinical research, authored a number of journal articles and book chapters, and is an editor of the textbook "Current Therapy in Plastic Surgery."

For several years, Moraine Valley's Career/Health Sciences Programs and Northwestern Memorial Hospital have collaborated to host this Medical Education Series on a variety of health topics, including concussions, mind-body pain management, cardiology, tobacco cessation, diabetes, urology, pelvic health, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and cochlear implants.

For more information call Mary Smith at (708) 608-4039 or email her SmithM@morainevalley.edu.

Oak Lawn Public Library is announcing their programs

Recycle your "gently used" books, magazines, CDs and videos by donating them to the Friends of the Oak Lawn Library Ongoing Book Sale at the Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Ave. Due to space limitations, the Friends will not accept Readers Digest Condensed Books, encyclopedias and older text books.

The donation drop-off area is near the library's Cook Avenue entrance. Interested parties may fill out a short form at the Reception Booth to receive a tax letter by mail that acknowledges their donation.

The Friends Ongoing Book Sale provides an ever-changing variety of books, magazines and other forms of media at bargain prices. Hardcover books cost 50 cents each, paperbacks are 25 cents and magazines cost five cents each. Audio visual items are priced as indicated. Funds collected from the book sale support library programming and purchases that are beyond their regular budget.

For more information, call (708) 422-4990 or visit www.oaklawnlibrary.org

The Friends of the Oak Lawn Library will host a Guided Tour of the Field Museum bus trip Thursday, Feb. 16. Registration is currently underway. Call the library at (708) 422-4900 to find out how to purchase tickets.

Take a highlighted docent-led tour through some of the Field Museum's permanent collections and learn about the history of these exhibits. Hear personal stories about actual experiences as the guides share their favorite secrets. A delicious box lunch from the Corner Bakery will be served in the museum's Rice Room.

The bus will depart from the library at 9 a.m. and return at 3 p.m. The cost of the trip is $50 for Friends members and $55 for others. Members must present a current membership card or receipt to receive the $5 discount.

Student Artwork on Display at Oak Lawn Library

Student artwork from St. Linus School in Oak Lawn will be on display in the Youth Services Department of the Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Avenue, during the month of January. Art teacher Ginny Gallagher coordinated the exhibit, which features work from students in first through 8th grade.

ISAC Corps will be at Oak Lawn Library

College-bound students and their families are invited to meet with representatives from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) Corps on Tuesday, Jan. 24 from 6-8 p.m. at the Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Ave.

Stop by to learn about getting ready for college and the financial aid process, including how to file the FAFSA. No appointment necessary.

The ISAC offers a comprehensive array of programs and services.

For additional information about ISAC, visit www.collegezone.com.

ISAC will also be on-site at the Oak Lawn Library on Tuesdays, Jan. 31 and Feb. 7 from 6-8 p.m.

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In 2012 Fulcrum Point makes news

For over 12 years, Fulcrum Point New Music Project has been pushing the boundaries of the musical experience through dynamic live performances with innovative programming. Fulcrum Point will certainly make "news" in 2012 as it performs the World Premiere of Dutch avant-pop composer Jacob TV's provocative new video opera, THE NEWS, as part of the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust's Distinctly Dutch Festival, April 27, followed by the Midwest Premiere here at Chicago's Park West, May 4.

Jacob TV's THE NEWS is a unique fusion of speech, music and video based on original news footage from around the world. The 90-minute commentary, of sorts, features "talking heads" ranging from foreign news makers to American celebrities providing topical sound bites about world issues, all set to a live music score with vocalists. Among those captured discussing global warming, the credit crunch, religion and matters of war and peace, not to mention celebrity and trivialities are familiar faces ranging from President Obama to Sarah Palin, Silvio Berlusconi to TV evangelists.

The Midwest Premiere of THE NEWS is but one of Fulcrum Point's local concert programs this year. Following, in chronological order, is the 2012 season to date:

·Cheers for Ears, a benefit for the Foundation for Hearing and Speech Rehabilitation, an affiliated organization of Children's Memorial Hospital, at Lincoln Hall, 2424 N. Lincoln Avenue, Sunday, January 22, at 3 p.m. Fulcrum Point will deliver a percussive, rhythmic, and theatrical program to celebrate the power of hearing. Performance pieces by pioneering composers Susan Powell, Robert Damm, Russell Peck and Steve Reich, along with West African tribal music including dance and drumming rituals, will move attendees to partake in the uplifting beat.

·Afro-Beats! , a Harris Theater Family Series event at the Harris Theater, 205 E. Randolph Drive, will commemorate Black History Month with a festive and interactive performance designed for the whole family, Saturday, February 25, at 2 p.m. Fulcrum Point will explore the rich rhythms, sounds and images of West Africa in this 75-minute multimedia performance, featuring works by Fela Kuti, Thelonious Monk, Pacquito d'Rivera, Steve Reich, and traditional music from Mandingo and African-American cultures. Children of all ages will be invited to participate in drumming circles, traditional African dances, and soulful songs in what is certain to be a spirited performance.

·Fulcrum Point Goes Ivy League: Harvard is the inaugural concert in a three-year series celebrating music and poetry from artists with affiliations to Ivy League universities, at the Harris Theater, Wednesday, March 28, at 7:30 p.m. This first program will showcase the works of four composers with ties to Harvard University: 2004 Pulitzer Prize winner Paul Moravec, Randall Woolf, Ken Ueno, and 2008 Grawemeyer Award winner Peter Lieberson.

·Following a standing-room-only collaboration between Columbia College Chicago and Fulcrum Point this past spring, the pair will reunite to present another free film music screening event with live orchestra at the sound stage of the College's Media Production Center, 1600 S. State Street, in the Spring.

·Book Sounds, launched at the 2011 Chicago Tribune Printer's Row LIT Festival, returns this June. In collaboration with Open Books and targeted for a family audience, Book Sounds is a multi-media concert of musical compositions based on award-winning children's books. Not only are the pieces performed with live music, they are accompanied by projections of the published illustrations, as well as a narration of the story by a guest reader. Specific June date and location TBA.

·Fulcrum Point Peace Concert continues an annual concert series themed around international music written about and/or for peace. This year's concert, sponsored in part by JPMorgan Chase, will take place at Chase Auditorium, 10 S. Dearborn Street, Tuesday, September 11.

Ticket prices for each program vary by venue; a new Fulcrum Point Subscribers' Discount pass offers a pair of general admission tickets to any three ticketed events for only $100, a potential savings of up to 30%. Subscriptions are available only on the Fulcrum Point www.fulcrumpoint.org.

To purchase single tickets or for more information on all 2012 concert programs, please visit www.fulcrumpoint.org or call (312) 726-3846.

BOOK REVIEW:

Uncle Al Capone is a family man

by Annette Dixon

Deirdre Marie Capone, a niece of Al Capone writes about the family life of Al Capone and I don't mean the outfit. "Many of Uncle Al's family members have an actual human side to their lives, thanks to this new book and our understanding of family values," Deirdre stated.

Describing the Capone immigration from Italy to Brooklyn, New York brings light as to why Deirdre wanted the reader to understand the components of the Capone family.

Within this book there are family Capone pictures never seen before, Capone family recipes, and quotes from Al in every chapter. Also at the very end of the book is the appendix from Johnny Chase, who describes the incredible escape from Alcatraz. Also mentioned is the 1991 retrial which acquitted Al of the 1931 trial which convicted him of tax evasion.

This sincere sensitive discovery of the Capone family is very special and can be purchased at amazon.com.

The Joffrey Ballet presents WINTER FIRE

The Joffrey Ballet brings to Chicago the work of three world-renowned choreographers in "Winter Fire," a mixed repertory program featuring two premieres and an audience favorite. The groundbreaking pieces include the U.S. Premiere of Infra by Wayne McGregor (Resident Choreographer of London's Royal Ballet), the Company Premiere of In the Middle, Somewhat Elevated by William Forsythe (former Joffrey dancer), and the critically acclaimed After the Rain by Christopher Wheeldon (Resident Choreographer of New York City Ballet).

"Winter Fire" is presented in ten performances only at the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, February 15 through Feb. 26.

The "Winter Fire" program opens with Forsythe's In the Middle, Somewhat Elevated, originally created for the Paris Opera Ballet in 1987. With music by Thom Willems in collaboration with Leslie Stuck, In the Middle, Somewhat Elevated is a purely abstract work that combines classical ballet lines with rapid-fire virtuosity and an air of cool detachment. The Joffrey Ballet has performed excerpts of this work before, but the winter program represents the first time the company presents the piece in its entirety.

"William Forsythe's choreography has sometimes been described as a 'deconstruction' of ballet," noted Wheater. "but in my opinion, In the Middle, Somewhat Elevated is firmly grounded in ballet, a modern extension of its principles. In his own words, 'Ballet was my mother tongue in dance, so you can't erase it from your consciousness.' I love the architecture of his choreography: abstract, yet wrapped with humanity."

The program continues with the return of Wheeldon's After the Rain, a 2010 Joffrey Premiere that received unanimous critical acclaim. The Joffrey Ballet is the first company outside of Wheeldon's own to be awarded rights to perform this work in full. Set to the minimalist, classical music of Arvo Pärt, After the Rain is in two sections strikingly different in tone: the first, with dancers costumed in steel gray, is feverishly paced with bold lines and intricate lifts; the second shifts to a warmer palette and a meditative pace, evoking a tender, emotionally-resonant tone.

The winter engagement is completed by the U.S. Premiere of McGregor's sumptuous work Infra, premiered by The Royal Ballet of London in 2008. The Joffrey is the first company other than the Royal to perform this work. Infra is set to an original score by Max Richter, a mix of mournful strings and calmly indifferent industrial sounds. The set includes a 59-foot LED screen suspended above the stage displaying walking pedestrian animations by British artist Julian Opie. Beneath it ("infra," Latin meaning "below"), 12 dancers execute McGregor's quick, intricate and hyper-articulate movement, displaying both the dancers' strength and impressive flexibility. Created in the wake of the London subway bombings of 2005, the work simmers with a vibrant emotional undercurrent, conjuring a poignant sense of the constant flux and hypnotic monotony that are both intrinsic to urban life..

Wheater said, "Wayne McGregor's choreography begins with the human body, and with an understanding of its potential for movement. His dance explores the relationship of the body and the mind...and with Infra, he considers the heart, as well."

The Joffrey Ballet's "Winter Fire" program runs Wednesday, February 15 through Sunday, February 26.

Single tickets range from $25 to $149 and are available for purchase at The Joffrey Ballet's official Box Office located in the lobby of Joffrey Tower, 10 E. Randolph Street, as well as the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University Box Office, all Ticketmaster Ticket Centers, by telephone at (800) 982-2787, or online at www.ticketmaster.com.

Garage Rep at Steppenwolf Theatre

Steppenwolf Theatre Company is pleased to present its 3rd annual GARAGE REP, featuring three productions in rotating repertory by some of Chicago's most innovative, storefront companies: LiveWire Chicago, Theatre Zarko and The Inconvenience. GARAGE REP will play a ten-week run February 2 – April 8, 2012 in The Steppenwolf Garage, 1624 N. Halsted St. Single tickets and three play passes for GARAGE REP are currently on sale.

The GARAGE REP 2012 Productions & Companies:

February 2 – April 8, 2012
LiveWire Chicago presents Oohrah! By Bekah Brunstetter, directed by Brad Akin

February 3 – April 8, 2012
The Inconvenience presents Hit the Wall By Ike Holter*, directed by Eric Hoff

February 4 – April 8, 2012
Theatre Zarko presents He Who written and directed by Michael Montenegro*

The Steppenwolf Garage is dedicated to new plays, new artists and new audiences for the American theater. It offers artists the opportunity to present their work with the scale, space and resources it merits. For audiences, it provides opportunities to engage in multigenerational conversation.

Support for the GARAGE REP comes through the "Leading for the Future Initiative," a program of the Nonprofit Finance Fund, funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. Steppenwolf Theatre Company, (Martha Lavey, Artistic Director; David Hawkanson, Executive Director). For additional information, visit www.steppenwolf.org.

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Without school buses, millions of children could be left with no way to safely and reliably arrive at school each day.

Budget-Cutting Math That Does Not Add Up

(NAPSA)-School districts across the country are doing the math in an effort to cut costs, but their equations may not always adequately factor in student safety.

One way school districts have cut costs is by reducing or eliminating school transportation services-cutting routes and increasing the distance standards by which students qualify for transportation. These measures can have disastrous results, say worried parents, with students forced to walk on winding roads with no shoulders or sidewalks, cross busy highways and navigate dangerous city commutes.

Cutting school bus transportation service also means more teens will drive to school, which statistics show is not the safest mode of transportation. According to the Department of Transportation, school-age children are about 50 times more likely to die traveling to school when they drive or ride with friends than if they take the bus. The more teens in the car, the better the odds of a crash, says a recent survey by the Allstate Foundation. Almost half of the teens polled admit to being distracted by their passengers.

And other teenage passengers are not the only distraction. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that 46 percent of teens admit to texting while driving, which involves taking their eyes off the road and at least one hand off the steering wheel. Few teens travel or drive-without their cell phone. Talking on a cell phone can significantly slow the reaction time of even an experienced driver.

School buses are manufactured to meet special federal safety standards, which include reinforced sides, flashing red lights, cross-view mirrors, a crossbar and stop-arms. Bus drivers are professional drivers who carry a commercial driver's license and who, in order to carry a School Bus Endorsement, undergo background checks prior to employment, receive specialized — education- and training, are subject to frequent driving record checks and are monitored by periodic medical exams.

Every day, 475,000 school buses safely carry 25 million children-more than half of America's schoolchildren-to school. The National Academy of Sciences and the U.S. Department of Transportation say that school buses are the safest form of transportation for getting children to and from school.

How To Spot A Ponzi Scheme

(NAPSA)-The promise of guaranteed returns, consistent gains when the rest of the market is volatile, and complex or secret investment strategies-these are all warning signs of a Ponzi scheme. Learning to recognize them, and doing a little homework, could help you avoid getting conned.

"It may appear as though new investment scams are invented every day," says Gerri Walsh, president of the FINRA Investor Education Foundation. "But most boil down to a few common patterns."

What changes is the "hook"-the lie a criminal tells to make the scheme believable. For Ponzi schemes, it's often something an investor can't get anywhere else. Walsh said, such as abnormally high returns.

"You have to remember that these are professionals who are very experienced in making 'too good to be true' sound good enough to be real," she said.

How Ponzi schemes work. Rather than investing or managing money as promised, a central fraudster or "huh" con collects money from new investors and uses it to pay earlier-stage investors. This is the strategy Charles Ponzi used for his infamous postage-stamp scam of the 1920s.

As with the original, all Ponzi schemes require a steady stream of incoming cash to stay afloat. They fall apart when new investors can't be found or when too many investors attempt to get their money out at the same time.

Here are the key warning signs of these scams:

• Guarantees: Be suspect of anyone who guarantees that an investment will make money. All investments carry some degree of risk.

• Unregistered products or sellers: Many investment scams involve unlicensed individuals selling unregistered securities-ranging from stocks, bonds, notes, hedge funds, oil or gas deals or fictitious instruments, such as prime bank investments. Before investing, ask if the seller is registered with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA), your state securities regulator or the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Also ask if the investment is registered with your state or the SEC. Then, independently verify the information.

• Consistent returns-no matter what: Any investment that consistently goes up month after month should raise suspicions, especially during turbulent times. Even the most stable investments can experience hiccups once in a while.

• Complex strategies: Legitimate professionals should be able to explain clearly what they are doing. It is critical that you fully understand any investment you're seriously considering.

•. Missing documentation: If someone tries to sell you a security with no documentation-that is, no prospectus in the case of a stock or mutual fund, and no offering circular in the case of a bond-he or she may be selling unregistered securities. The same is true of stocks without stock symbols.

• Adviser as custodian: Be sure you know who holds your assets. For instance, is the investment adviser also the custodian of your assets? Or is there an independent third-party custodian? It can be easier for fraud to occur if an adviser is also the custodian of the assets and keeper of the accounts.

For more information on spotting and avoiding investment fraud, visit the FINRA Foundation's fraud-fighting website, www.SaveAndInvest.org/LearnMore.

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It's heart smart to know your blood pressure. Photo courtesy of the American Heart Association.

Coping With Cold Weather And Heart Disease

(NAPSA)-Give the health dangers of cold weather the cold shoulder-even if you have a heart condition-with these hints from the American Heart Association:

• Avoid sudden exertion, such as lifting a heavy shovelful of snow. Even walking through heavy, wet snow or snow drifts can strain the heart.

• Watch out for accidental hypothermia-body temperature below 95° F. Symptoms include lack of coordination, mental confusion, slowed reactions, shivering and sleepiness. Those with heart disease are at special risk.

High winds, snow and rain can steal body heat. Wind removes the layer of heated air from around the body. At 30° F in a 30-mile wind, the cooling effect is equal to 15° F. Dampness, too, causes the body to lose heat faster.

To keep warm, wear layers of clothing to trap the heat. Also, wear a hat or head scarf. Heat can be lost through your head. Ears are especially prone to frostbite. Keep your hands and feet warm, too, as they tend to lose heat rapidly.

• Don't drink alcohol. Alcohol gives an initial feeling of warmth, because blood vessels in the skin expand, but that actually draws heat away from vital organs.

• Take precautions to avoid flu and pneumonia. They pose even greater dangers for people who have a heart condition than for healthy people. Pneumonia is a lung infection that keeps your body from using oxygen as efficiently as it should. Your heart has to work harder to pump oxygenated blood through the body. Your doctor may suggest you get a yearly influenza vaccine and a one-time pneumococcal vaccine.

• As much as possible, avoid anyone with a cold or the flu.

• Wash your hands thoroughly and frequently, especially after using the bathroom and before eating.

• Keep your hands away from your face.

• Insist that all caregivers wash their hands thoroughly before approaching you.

• Always read the labels on all over-the-counter (OTC) medications, especially if you have blood pressure of 120/80 mm Hg or higher. Look for warnings to those with high blood pressure and to those who take blood pressure medications. Consult your doctor before taking any over-the-counter medications or supplements.

• Be aware that the use of decongestants may raise blood pressure or interfere with the effectiveness of some prescribed blood pressure medications.

• Check the sodium content of any OTCs. Some are high in sodium, which can raise blood pressure. People with high blood pressure should have under 1,500 mg of sodium a day from all sources.

Learn more online at www.heart.org/cold-weather and www.heart.org/hbp and follow the American Heart Association on Facebook at HBPescapees or Twitter @hearthub. . Merek Consumer Care, maker of Coricidin HBP, is a sponsor of the American Heart Association's High Blood Pressure website.

Did You Know?

(NAPS)—Caution your teens about letting other teen passengers ride with them. According to the Department of Transportation, teens driving to school or riding with other teenage drivers are 50 times more likely to be fatally injured than when riding in a school bus.

* * *

"The Sims 3 Pets" provides families with fun and interactive ways to prepare for adopting a pet. The game gives family members of all ages the chance to care for and even become a virtual pet. For more information, visit http://www.thesims3.com.

* * *

A bedtime routine can be soothing, whether it's reading together or watching a show such as "Pajanimals" on Sprout. The series was designed to help parents and caregivers with a bedtime routine for their preschoolers. For more information call 1.8. SPROUT.411 or go to www.SproutOnline.com.

* * *

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A new cloud-streaming service called UltraViolet provides consumers with a digital locker to store copies of purchased films and TV shows. The quickest way to get started is with a free account through Flixster.com. Learn more at www.UVVU.com and www.ultraviolet.flixster.com.

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SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 38 | Number 15 | February 7, 2012

Burbank, Evergreen Park, Hickory Hills, Justice, Oak Lawn

Contract agreements approved between Bridgeview and Windsor Outdoor

by Jan Glaz

Two important contract agreements between the Village of Bridgeview and Windsor Outdoor, LLC were removed from the agenda at the Board of Trustee Meeting on January 4th and on January 18th at the next scheduled Board of Trustees Meeting, after extensive discussions and committee meetings, both the Advertising Agreement and the Operations and Maintenance Agreement between the Village of Bridgeview and Windsor Outdoor LLC., (Vendor) met with approval. Windsor Outdoor LLC, located in Willowbrook, Illinois is in the business of delivering, installing, maintaining and operating outdoor signs.

Of interest; two double-faced sign structures owned by the Village located on Interstate 294 and Interstate I-55 referred to as "Village Billboards". Windsor Outdoor LLC as the Vendor has the right to determine the size and type of advertising messages to be displayed on the Billboards and to contract with others for use of advertising messages but is restricted from posting any advertising containing nudity, pornographic, profane or obscene material or any illegal or prohibited activity.

The Village maintains access to the message content of the Billboards and has the right to immediately cause the Vendor to interrupt any advertising messages on the Billboards at any time for emergency service messages, and Homeland Security alerts. As pertains to the "Village Billboards" the Vendor also agrees to pay the "Village Share" of revenue, a percentage of the annual Net Value received by the Vendor from advertisers for advertising messages for the length of the contract.

Other agenda items receiving votes of approval included the appointment of Karen Civinelli as Chairperson of the Zoning Board of Appeals; recommendation for award for the Bridgeview Court Natural Area Public Access Improvement bids (phase I) for the area located at Harlem Avenue, East of 77th Street. Trustee Michael Pticek introduced and commented on the final approval, the extension of the scavenger services agreement entered into between the Village of Bridgeview and the Land and Lakes Disposal Services, LLC, for a maximum of 1-year, a period ending on December 31, 2012. He stated that the extension is month to month and includes the creation of a committee to review services, obtain prices and make selections, a process that will take several months. The new contract extension also includes a price increase of $1.25 per month.

Bridgeview requests public participation for new grant program

by Jan Glaz

Bridgeview Village Attorney Vincent Cainkar conducted a Public Hearing at the Board of Trustees Meeting on February 1st to solicit proposals for the 2012 Cook County Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). This program relates to the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The program is designed to provide decent housing, a suitable living environment, and to expand economic opportunities for persons of low and moderate income.

Attorney Cainkar informed the public that there are seven blocks in Bridgeview which meet the criteria for grant money and he requested suggestions as to capital improvement projects within the designated area. Cainkar described the process as collecting suggestions which will then go through Village Administration, where an application is assembled. Two weeks from the February 1st Village Board of Trustees Meeting, at the next scheduled Board Meeting, another public hearing will be held on the application; applications are due to be filed with the County on February 17, 2012.

Trustee Norma Pinion introduced an Ordinance Amending Chapter 15, Miscellaneous Regulations by adding Article 9 Seizure and Impoundment of motor vehicles to the Village Code. She explained the amendment is to strengthen the existing Village Code. In part, whenever a police officer has probable cause to believe that a vehicle is violation as pertains to the Ordinance the officer has the right to cause the seizure and impoundment of the vehicle. The violator must post a bond in the amount of $500.00 and then if a penalty is imposed the bond will be forfeited to the Village but if the violation is not proven the bond money will be returned. Posting of the bond does not relieve the owner from paying towing and storage costs associated with the seizure and impoundment unless the Watch Commander or supervising officer determines that the vehicle should not have been seized or impounded. Trustee Pinion emphasized the ordinance amendment was to "catch some of these people and give them a harder time and make our community a safe place." The vote to approve the Ordinance Amendment was unanimous.

Before adjournment, an Ordinance was approved relating to intoxicating liquors, limiting the number of liquor licenses and fees of the Municipal Code of Bridgeview. There are eleven (11) Classes of licenses and the number of licenses authorized in each of the classes is the maximum number that can be issued within the class. Important is the fact that any license which is revoked, or not used because of the termination of liquor business on the premises for which the license was issued will automatically reduce the number of authorized licenses of the particular class and shall not be available for issuance without the approval of the Mayor and Board of Trustees.

Justice enters into an agreement with Children's Advocacy Center

by Jan Glaz

An Ordinance to enter into a license agreement with All Our Children's Advocacy Center, Inc. was approved at the Village of Justice Board of Trustees meeting on January 23rd after an announcement that the Center would no longer be associated with the bankrupt Jane Adams Hull House. The Hull House Association was founded 123 years ago, in 1889, in Chicago. It plans to close by the end of March due to an inability to reduce operating costs at a time when demand for social services are on the rise, also; owing to a slow economy there has been a significant drop in donations making it difficult to raise funds. All Our Children's Advocacy Center, Inc. located at 8651 South 79th Avenue in Justice will continue to serve the Community as an independent private not-for-profit Social Service Agency.

Financial Update: Trustee Kinga Bartoszek announced that the Village Financial Consultant predicted, after recent positive financial actions taken by the Board of Trustees, a total revenue estimate of $6,001,961.60; a total expenditure of $6,204,754.23; and a deficit of $202,799.53. Trustee Bartoszek added that after the closing out of 2011, by the time of the next budget meeting, the Village would have access to actual budget expenses and revenues for 2012.

Trustee Rick Symonds introduced a motion to authorize the Deputy Director of Public Works to execute an agreement with Pro Pump to perform regularly scheduled maintenance on the village's Lift Station Pumps for a cost of $2,677.00, for service throughout the year of 2012 and then brought forward a motion to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Cook County Sheriff Team allowing them to park a their vehicle at the Public Works Yard and to store their vehicle in the village area, Symonds commented, "It's good for us": Both motions carried.

The last item approved was a business license for B&B Nutrition doing business at 8400 S. Roberts Road, Unit #3, in Justice, having passed all inspections and being in compliance with all codes and ordinances.

Planet Fitness opens in the Plaza

In mid-January, Planet Fitness opened a new 27,000-square-foot facility in The Plaza, 9500 S. Western Ave., Evergreen Park. According to Bryan Rishforth, Planet Fitness Chicago Owner & Developer, the facility is not just the largest in Illinois, it's already drawing crowds to work out in a state-of-the-art fitness facility that's also a Judgement Free Zone.

Village View

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FAR SOUTH EDITION

Volume 10 | Number 3 | February 7, 2012

Oak Forest, Orland Park, Tinley Park

Orland maps out water increase

by Jan Glaz

Due to the holidays the regular Village of Orland Park Board Meeting commenced on Tuesday, January 3, 2012. The first meeting of the year was brief but the agenda highlights were informative. The first item of interest mapped out some details concerning the Chicago Water Rate Increase – approval; Chicago stated that as part of its current budget process an additional increase in rates are to be charged to water customers because of aging infrastructure and the need for extensive repairs. The breakdown of rates is as follows: 25% effective January 1, 2012, with subsequent increases of 15% per year 2013, 2014, and 2015; all effective on the first of January each year. The Village of Oak Lawn, where Orland Park buys its Chicago Water, will pass these rate increases onto Orland Park.

Because the City of Chicago is increasing its rates, Orland Park's adoption of the "revised proposed rates" for 2012 will result in an increase of approximately $3.75 per monthly billing period, based on a bimonthly usage of 9,000 gallons. The revenues from the village water fund will not be able to cover the increased cost-of-water expenditure unless it passes the Chicago rate increase onto the community. Consideration by the full Village Board is scheduled for Monday, January 16, 2012.

Tenant Relocation Claims listed on the Village Agenda were approved. This policy approval ensures that the remaining Orland Plaza tenants can obtain their relocation assistance payments in anticipation of the village gaining title to the Phase I acquisition property at the Orland Plaza, February 14, 2012. The Village Board agrees to relocation estimates in an effort to assist Orland Plaza tenants with relocation. Approval of estimates will enable staff to issue checks with a 'not to exceed' amount subject to verification by the village's relocation assistance consultant, Ms. Annette Favia. Most tenants have already begun relocating and received a portion or all of their payments. The approval pertains to the handful of remaining businesses that have not yet finalized relocation plans. As the tenants do so, eligible costs will be verified and checks will be issued to those tenants.

The last item of interest to residents is the revolving Loan Fund for the Orland Park Bakery to help the bakery relocate and expand at 14850 South LaGrange Road. The project includes construction of a larger bakery, from its current 3,750 square feet to its new 6,400 square feet facility, also the purchase and rehabilitation of bakery equipment. The approved loan for the Orland Park Bakery is in the amount of $100,000.

Oak Forest delays apporoval of water increase

by Jan Glaz

Approval of an Ordinance to establish charges for the fresh water supply system in the City of Oak Forest was the subject of a round of discussion by council members at the Board of Trustees Meeting on Tuesday, January 10th. Finance Director Coleen Julian provided details concerning the proposed hike of $1.00 per thousand gallons of water and admitted that the increase was higher than average compared to the six municipalities she observed. She also reported a deficit that is budgeted in the fiscal year 2012 Water Fund and a need to increase the reserve within the Water Fund due to the fact that they are overdrawn approximately$700,000.00. Julian stressed that the City should act now to address the issue.

City Treasurer Dwayne Fox agreed stating, "You can't have a negative fund balance it's against city policy." Alderman Daniel Ensing was not in favor of the purposed increase. "We charge more on water fund percentage of full time employees than any other community does so we are higher, we put more of a burden on our water fund." He felt by addressing water fund full time and over time employees that Oak Forest could absorb a portion of the Chicago increase as budgeted by both Orland Park and Tinley Park. Ensign suggested further discussion before approving a $1.00 increase. Alderman Simon added that it's an added hardship for Senior citizens. The City Council then voted to delay, discuss, and reschedule the item for the next City Council Meeting on January 26th.

Before adjournment two motions carried: An expenditure of $780,000 of motor fuel tax funds for various uses; traffic signals, use of salt, patching materials, equipment rental, and MFT engineering costs, and the purchase of a CASE 580 SN Backhoe. Public Works Director Troy Ishler reported that the backhoe needs to be replaced but that the state purchase price ended in November and for some reason the City was not notified. Public Works contacted the contractor responsible for the state purchase program and they agreed to hold the price into January for a cost savings of $14,000.00. Ishler stated that the City currently uses two backhoes and with the purchase of the new, the oldest will traded-in to reduce the cost. The money for both approvals has been budgeted and approved in the original Capital Improvement Plan.

Orland Township is now open to accept 2011 Board of Review Assessment Appeals

Any resident who feels their property is overvalued may file an appeal. Our appeal filing period began Tuesday, January 10, 2012 and ends Wednesday, February 8, 2012.

Effective with the 2011 tax year "On-Line" appeal filing is a new option now available to all Cook County residents. Complete and easy to follow instructions can be located cookcountyboardofreview.com. The filing deadline for all On-Line appeals is 11:30 P.M. February 8th.

If you need assistance in preparing your appeal, please call the Orland Township Assessor's Office at 708-403-4222 to schedule an appointment.

CJB Fifth Grade Crestwood Recreation Center Tournament ChampsFront Row (from left): Olivia Cassidy (Frankfort), Alex Dennis (Tinley Park), Haley Smith (Orland Park)Second Row (from left) Rachel Holic (Orland Park), Bridget Grady (Frankfort), Tina Soltis (Tinley Park), Abigail Groszek (Homer Glen), Katie Mather (Orland Park), Annie Gregg (Orland Hills), Lauren Qualizza (Orland Park). Third Row: Coaches Colleen Mather and Bob Marthaler

CJB 5th Grade Girls' Volleyball Team Wins Crestwood Tournament(Orland Hills)

The Cardinal Joseph Bernardin Catholic School (CJB) 5th grade girls' Red volleyball team went undefeated (4-0) in an invitational tournament hosted by the Crestwood Recreation Center.

The Lady Cardinals won the championship on Sunday, January 8, 2012, winning two out of three games in the Championship match against a talented team from George F. Cassell Elementary School from Chicago's Mount Greenwood neighborhood. The CJB team was undefeated going into the championship game and handily defeating St. Christopher and Queen of Martyrs in the first round and St. George in the semifinal round. "The young ladies from Cassell were tough competitors and we were pleased to see the CJB team rise to the challenge and improve their level of play to win the final match with victories in two of the three games," says Coach Bob Marthaler and Colleen Mather both of Orland Park. Marthaler further stated that the key to the girls' tremendous play in this tournament and in regular season play, in which to date they've lost just a single game, is a result of a supportive team atmosphere and tenacious play.

The Cardinal Joseph Bernardin School athletics program seeks to put Christian values into practice by helping young athletes develop to the best of their abilities and to participate with dignity and grace. Please visit the school's website at www.cardianljbschool.com to learn more.

Village View

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SOUTH SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 13 | Number 3 | February 7, 2012

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

The Economic Development Commission announced the winners of the first annual Holiday Lights Award

left to right is Trustee Colleen McElroy, Class Act Travel owner and Second Place winner Amy Costello, Village President Randy Keller and S & S owner and First place winner Ravi K. Chirumamilla.

Worth imposes moratoriums on some business licenses

by Matt Mayer

Officials at the Jan. 3 Worth Board of Trustees meeting approved an ordinance for a temporary moratorium on the issuance of business licenses to cash for gold and pawn shops businesses in the village.

The ordinance states that the president and the board of trustees may from time to time enact ordinances that affect the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the village. This protects customers while allowing village staff to undertake a review of the municipal code and investigate the feasibility of imposing zoning restrictions or to determine the need for additional licensing requirements. The temporary moratorium is for a 12-month period, which will allow the village staff to determine the necessity of appropriate restrictions and report their findings to the president and the board of trustees

The ordinance describes the businesses as follows:

A. Cash for Gold Business means any establishment that conducts transactions via any medium whatsoever, including but not limited to paper, facsimile, internet, telephone, Federal Express, United States Postal Service, or United Parcel Service in which the establishment solicits and or exchanges in the exchange of money and or secured loans for items of gold in any form whatsoever, including but not limited to jewelry, coins, serving sets, watches, cufflinks, pins, broaches, charms. pendants, white gold and platinum.

B. Pawn Shop In addition to the previous criteria, the ordinance states that any establishment which solicits and/or engages in the exchange of money and/or secured loans for items of personal property as collateral whereas the pawned item may be offered for sale if the secured loan is not paid off within a specified time period.

The Oak Lawn Board of Trustees, sighting safety issues, recently and unanimously denied a license for a cash for gold business to be located on 95th street west of Oak Park Avenue.

Palos Park approves visitor's bureau of record

by Matt Mayer

Officials approved an ordinance at a Board of Commissioners meeting regarding the vacating of a portion of 120th Street east of 92nd Avenue and repealed an ordinance, which was adopted on November 28, 2011 for 9105 W. 120th Street. A request for the Southland Convention and Visitors Bureau to be the visitors bureau of record for the marketing and promotion of the tourism industry in the village was approved as well as a Palos Area Transportation for the Elderly and Handicapped (PATSE) payment of $431.36. PATSE serves senior and handicapped residents in Palos Township within the boundaries of 87th Street, Pulaski Avenue, 135th Street, and Wolf Road the door to door bus service is free of charge and will take residents to doctors offices, grocers, salons, and shops. Residents may call 708.430.3822 between the hours of 7a.m and 3 p.m. to make a reservation at least on day in advance. PATSE is closed on weekends and holidays.

Other highlights: Commissioners made the following announcements: In Commissioner G. Darryl Reeds absence. Mayor John Mahoney reported that the building department issued 13 building permits totaling $9,440.17 in fees from December 7 2011 to January 4 2012. Commissioner of Public Health and Safety, Daniel Polk, reported that the police department received 727 calls for service from December 13, 2011 to January 5, 2012. Palos Park police also issued 52 parking citations, 46 traffic citations, two ordinance violations, completed 26 case reports, arrested 6 adults, two impounds, no juveniles, 21 senior checks, 27 citizen assists and 19 community contact hours.

Commissioner Polk also reported that the Palos Park Police Cadets donated 735 pounds of food to the Greater Chicago Food Depository during the Christmas holidays. Citizens on Patrol Service (COPS) presented Mike Sundermeier and Ken Stoffel a check for $250,000 for the benefit of the Palos Park Police Foundation.

Palos Heights settles Westgate Valley litigation

by Matt Mayer

Officials at the Palos Heights City Council approved an agreement ending a three yearlong lawsuit regarding the Westgate Valley subdivisions of Lauren Glen, Keystone Crossing, and Forest Ridge developments. These subdivisions consist of condominiums, town homes and duplex developments. Under the terms of the settlement, the city has agreed to pay maintenance costs for water, sewer lines and fire hydrants, leaving the residents responsible for the costs of street maintenance and snow plowing.

Alderman Jeffery Key, a Westgate resident involved in the filing of the 2008 lawsuit, said that in 2003 when he moved into Westgate he thought the city owned the streets. However in private communities, the residents own the streets but not the fire hydrants water and sewer lines.

Michael J. Marovich the attorney representing the city said the city would be responsible for maintaining the water and sewer lines. However the city will not plow or maintain the streets. The city offered this 3 years ago because they are within the jurisdiction of the city, said Marovich.

The city will also maintain some of the Ridgeland Avenue and 135th Street sidewalks if they crack. However the city will not be shoveling them and the association will be responsible for removing weeds and maintaining the grass, said Marovich. Also as part of the settlement, the city will reimburse any monies that were spent in order to maintain the lines, said Marovich. Mayor Bob Straz said he felt the agreement was fair in accordance to a 1998 annexation agreement. The streets in front of the developments were private therefore leaving the responsibility of upkeep to the residents.

Over the past three years, association members have spoken out against maintaining and plowing the streets, citing they are paying twice, once on the city's portion of the property tax and then having to pay again for maintaining and plowing.

Village View

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B-MAC EDITION

Volume 6 | Number 3 | February 7, 2012

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Crestwood approved $675,000 for streets and highways

by Jan Glaz

On January 19th at the Crestwood Village Board Meeting, a Consideration of Resolution for Maintenance of Streets & Highways by Municipality Under the Illinois Highway Code and Maintenance Engineering to be performed by Vantage Point Engineering in the sum of $675,000.00 and to be appropriated from the Motor Fuel Tax Funds for the year January 2, 2012 to December 31, 2012, received a unanimous vote. Vantage Point Engineering located in Orland Park is a company known for leading-edge technical expertise in civil engineering, land planning and surveying. They offer in-depth knowledge of local development regulations and have extensive relationships with key decision makers in the municipalities that they serve.

In relation to Streets and Highways in Crestwood only five (5) scavenger licenses are issued for 2012 as stated in Crestwood's scavenger license ordinance. The purpose in limiting license holders is to reduce the number of heavy garbage trucks using the Village Streets while still providing residents the opportunity to have comparative bids for service. Any resident requiring refuse containers to be placed on their property and hauled away must choose from the license holders listed by the Village of Crestwood. The qualified license holders are: Allied Waste Services of Crestwood, d/b/a Groen Waste Services; Waste Management of Illinois, Inc.; Nuway Disposal Services, Inc. d/b/a Homewood Disposal Service, Inc.; Tri-State Disposal; and Land and Lakes Disposal Services LLC.

One item on the meeting agenda from the Water and Sewer Committee Report listed on the agenda as Consideration of a Resolution Declaring an Emergency Affecting Public Health & Safety and Authorizing Emergency Repairs to the Village Water System without competitive bidding was not brought forward. A motion carried for a Consideration of an Ordinance Granting a Special Use Permit at property located at 13443 S. Cicero Avenue, Crestwood, Illinois.

After announcing and accepting the Fire Department appointment, Bond & Oaths, for Daniel Jurka, Sr., the meeting was adjourned.

Crestwood authorizes emergency repairs to water system

by Jan Glaz

In the absence of Mayor Robert Stranczek, Trustee James Fowler was appointed Mayor Pro Tempore for the Crestwood Village Board of Trustees Meeting, February 2nd. Trustee Fowler suspended the rules of order to consider a Resolution Declaring an Emergency Affecting Public Health and Safety and Authorizing Emergency Repairs to the Village Water System without competitive bidding. Trustee John Toscas interrupted the vote to question the proposal fees and the dollar amount to be approved. Trustee Fowler replied that the work is contracted to Genco Industries, Inc. (13610 Kenton Ave. Crestwood IL.), he also stated that because the resolution is declaring an emergency the village is not taking the lowest bid, they're taking the bid to get the work done. A correction was made to the dollar amounts and both resolutions met with Board approval. Repairs to the Crestwood Pump Station will be completed in two Phases: Phase 1, in the amount of $262,800 and Phase 2, in the amount of $76,800; a total amount of $339,600.00.

Of Interest: Trustee Victor Hirsch announced that the annual Fire Department report for 2011 consisted of a total of 2,572 incidents for the year and that there were no causalities to fire fighters or civilians. Trustee John Toscas made a motion that was approved for an Ordinance Amending the Liquor Control Act of the Crestwood Village Code; reducing Class E licenses by (1) and increasing Class E licenses by (1). The approval allows Walgreens Drug Store in Crestwood to sell spirits along with wine and beer.

The Board of Trustees Meeting adjourned after approving to appoint the following part-time positions for Police Officers, subject to their signing their bond and oath: Ian A. Covey, Daniel C. O'Dwyer, Angelina L. Summerfield, Robert D. Benedetto, Megan M. Smith, and Andres A. Bonilla, Joseph R. Pavlik, Jr., Scott R. Savich.

Midlothian announces property tax rebates

by Jan Glaz

On Wednesday, January 25th at the Village of Midlothian Board of Trustees Meeting, Mayor Terry Stephens announced that the Board of Trustees has authorized a refund of a portion of the Midlothian 2010 real estate taxes (paid in 2011) to eligible residents and business owners. The refunds will occur during the month of February. The Village tax levy, which determines the Village portion of a tax bill, is adopted each December as required by State law. The tax levy is based on the equalized assessed value (EAV) for the entire Village.

The problem is that the EAV for each parcel is not determined by the County Assessor's Office until the following September. In addition, the County Assessor's Office adds a loss ratio to the levy passed by a municipality. Because the loss ratio and EAV are not received by the Village of Midlothian until nine to ten months after the Village is required to pass its levy, it is possible that the Village could levy more than the Village Ordinance (to comply with the tax cap law) allows and that is what occurred this year. The Village levied approximately $47,000 more (on a $3.5 million levy) than it should have pursuant to Village Ordinance. The rebates will return the excess to taxpayers. It is anticipated that the average homeowner will receive a refund in the range of $5 to $20.

Starting January 30, 2012 a refund application will be available at the Village Hall and will also be available on the Village's Website, www.villageofmidlothian.net. Completed applications with all required documentation must be submitted to the Village by 5 p.m. March 2, 2012. Late submissions will not be accepted. All refund checks will be processed and mailed within 30 days.

Mayor Stephens and the Board of Trustees voted to postpone an Ordinance Amending Water Rates and Administrative fee. The Mayor's response to the water rate increase, before the motion was approved, was that the Village is seeking an alternative water supply other than Chicago. He mentioned that Indiana would not be feasible as they were raising rates to the communities they supply but the village will take the time to "study every option."

"An agreement, Auto Aid Fire Assistance between the Village of Midlothian and the Village of Crestwood was approved before adjournment. The agreement is for fire truck response only.

Look to the Future

Volunteers after a light dinner and dessert will assist in calling close to 2,000 current Blue Cap supporters. The volunteers who participate not only cover the phones, but also record pledges.

They fill out pledge forms, stuff envelopes, prepare completed pledge forms for mailing and help motivate the callers. This will take place at the Modern Drop Forge, 13810 So. Western Ave, Blue Island. so on March 5, 6 & 7, on March 5, 6, 7 2012 from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm.

A special thank you to Modern Drop Forge for the many years of hosting Blue Cap's Phonathon.

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America needs our help by electing a person who cares about the survival of American values.

by J. R. Haymaker

Upon watching the Presidential debates I am witness to why the public is having trouble discerning which of the candidates is the best pick to carry on in the office as the leader of the American people. No clear winner is evident because the American people are not hearing from anyone that knows what the problems are and what to do to correct the economy and the current job situation.

This current situation has been brought on by past administrations, Democratic and Republican; and continues with the current one. Mr. Obama ran for office stating that he understood how trade with other nations had to be done in a fair way and not just free if it is to benefit the American people. The reason for this is simple. If equal trade does not exist with other countries than it will only benefit them in terms of jobs and gut our job market. Technology advances have also displaced many workers to the detriment of the job market and the needs of American workers. That is expected to continue and nothing can or should be done about it because you can't stop progress even when it produces detrimental effects like lower labor demand. Lots of things work in theory but not in actual practice and free trade like what is promoted by the present administration and the others that started it have yet to admit the folly of it. Past politicians were regularly heard to say that tariffs keep jobs in America. It needs to be said again. Other countries keep tariffs on some of their goods to maintain an industry that produces the products that they need even at an increased cost because it keeps the workforce employed and more of their currency in their country. So, another words it contains trade deficits. You may have to pay a little more for a product but you also control how it is made that can increase the quality. Trade deals have to change drastically so the workers of America are represented and not just to benefit the corporations involved in that trade.

It does not matter how cheap a product is if you cannot afford to purchase it. Without a job not many items can be included in your reduced budget. It won't matter how little they are priced. Working at wages so low as to compete with the foreign workers does not make sense. Americans can not live and raise families on the wages earned in third world countries.

Several political movements have risen in the last few years like the Tea Party and the Occupy movement. Each has marked the disenchantment of the American people with the way the government has worked with big business. There is a good reason for that. What has been going on is not part of the capitalist system. In fact, a transfer of value or capital from one group to favor another group is generally described as slavery. Putting the bill for government bailouts on the American people in such measure that it may never be paid back is not only unreasonable and reckless but should be viewed as criminal. None of the candidates for office are mentioning this and we need someone that sees the problem for what it really is and can come up with a solution that will start us on the road to a real recovery instead of just getting us into more dept that will only seal our fate!

We need a movement to elect an independent thinker, able to return America on the path of greatness and off the road to ruin. If you need to debate, comment or just voice your opinion, contact vvnew@sbcglobal.net or Annette at 312-624-8996.

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We have found that through the years of publishing the readers are interested in general information and also local happenings within their community. Therefore because we are fully electronic, we will not be accepting faxed or mailed news releases.

Seeking Nominees for Unsung Heroine Award

In recognition of Women's History Month, the Cook County Commissioner on Women's Issues will be sponsoring the Annual Unsung Heroine Award Celebration in March. This award recognizes women from each County District, who have made significant contributions to the well-being and betterment of their community through their volunteer efforts.

Cook County Commissioner Joan Patricia Murphy is seeking nominations that live in her 6th district for the Unsung Heroine Award. "These nominees are our neighbors, our mothers, our sisters, our friends. These women make a difference in our lives through their generous gift of their time, energy, expertise and leadership." All nominees must be involved in their community in a volunteer or professional capacity and be someone who has not received widespread recognition. Elected officials are not eligible.

Commissioner Murphy encourages all organizations or fellow citizens to submit entry nominations. Nomination entry forms will be available at Commissioner Joan Murphy's Office located at 5405 W. 127th Street in Crestwood or by calling Commissioner Murphy's office at (708)389-2125. All Nomination entries must be received by Monday, February 20th.

Moraine Valley's Tinley Park campus gets highest "green" rating

Moraine Valley Community College's Southwest Education Center (SWEC) in Tinley Park recently received platinum certification, the highest ranking possible, by the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). The college earned the necessary credit in all the LEED rating sections to become platinum.

The rating system is based on the design, construction and operation of a building that reaches a high level of "green" performance. Moraine Valley was aiming for gold certification, but hoping for platinum, said Stephenie Presseller, sustainability manager. SWEC is the first LEED platinum building in Tinley Park and the second one among Illinois community colleges. SWEC is located at 17900 S. 94th Ave.

SWEC was open for classes in fall 2010 with several "green" characteristics including a geothermal system, which uses heat stored in the earth to regulate temperatures in the building; bioswales in the parking lot to lessen water runoff; the extensive use of daylight, which reduces the need for artificial light; low-flow plumbing fixtures; and a green roof that reduces heat when it's warm outside and lessens cold in cooler months. There were a few elements that helped push Moraine Valley into platinum status, said Andy Duren, executive vice president of Administrative Services. Those items included purchasing renewable energy; developing an online survey asking SWEC employees various questions about their comfort level in the building; submetering the domestic hot water to make sure it's not overheated; and undersizing the parking lot to encourage alternative transportation.

"While there are additional costs for 'green' elements, over the life of the building, the energy savings and improved learning environment for our stud-ents will pay it back over and over again," Duren said.

"This rating is important because a big part of the college's responsibility is to lead by example, and this is a learning environment for our students and community.

In moving toward this status, Moraine Valley continued to improve the building and posted updates on the U.S. Green Building Council's website over the past two years. Duren said this is the way construction is headed, using recycled resources with concern for energy usage in these types of buildings.

LET'S FOLLOW THE SUN

by Jan Glaz

The Sun is shining in Aquarius and my article begins with a brief overview for those born from January 20th to February 18th of any year.

With the advent of 2012 each of the twelve zodiac signs will experience a theme that begins when the Sun enters their sign.

Aquarians will discover that 2012 is a year when it's wise to incorporate a good dose of reflection into their plans. It's necessary to weed your living space and to keep only what is truly of value. Be sure to discard old items on every level, mental, physical, and emotional.

Aquarians can truly benefit from the spiritual side of existence this year. The spiritual will act as a magnate to draw major benefits into the realm of your experience and ease adversity... if such a cloud enters your realm. Any old issues from last year that are dogging Aquarians have a chance to diminish under the light of summer. Summer is sure to fall into autumn and in its descent progress is realized but only if you maintain a close check on your power to communicate in an upbeat manner. Are you ready for 2013?

ASTROLOGY CHALLENGES PSYCHIC READINGS

In our society we tend to have physical checkups on a regular basis but we contact a psychic or astrologer only when we're in a stressful situation and in need of answers a doctor cannot provide.

People should be as cautious selecting a psychic/astrologer as they are a physician. Wasting ones money on a poor reading is bad enough but to walk away more stressed then you were when you set the appointment is horrendous. The burden to heal is an enormous responsibility; which brings me to the subject of my article.

Putting a spotlight on the two systems, I find that Psychic readings are based primarily on a reader's intuition whereas a trained Astrologer's information utilizes tried and true methods. Astrological systems can be taught, the only intuition required is the average amount humans are born with. Psychics tend to use instruments like tea leaves, cards, and yes, even birth dates. When a birth date is used to kick off a psychic reading the psychic does not calculate a birth chart with timed progressions, solar and lunar returns, planetary returns, etc. Say your relationship is in flux, an Astrologer can deter-mine length and severity based on concrete aspects, plus offer positive sugges-tions in a more accurate manner as opposed to the 'guessing' a Psychic does by the nature of her reading.

More often than not you will be disappointed in the futuristic reading of a psychic because the margin for error is tremendous. Did you know that our forefathers implemented Astrology in the founding of our country? That's an eye opener!

Astrojan10@Yahoo.com

Evergreen Park approves synthetic cannabinoid ordinance

by Matt Mayer

Evergreen Park officials approved an ordinance, which outlaws the possession, delivery, and sale of synthetic cannabinoids (marijuana), which contains an active ingredient that acts similar to that of marijuana and tetrahydrocanibinol (THC). Anyone in violation of this ordinance will be fined up to $750. Forms of the drug, which is composed of herbs and chemicals, have been sold legally at gas stations conveniences stores and local smoke shops under the name "Spice" or "K2".

The ordinance was approved to coincide with one of 214 state laws that went into effect Jan 1. According to the Chicago Tribune, the possession or sale of products sold under names such as "K2", "Head Trip", and "Black Mamba" is now a felony and is punishable from one to thirty years in prison.

A sampling of other noteworthy laws is as follows:

Back Seat Riders Buckle Up Adults could be ticketed and fined for not wearing their seat belts while riding in the back seat of a vehicle.

Electronic Products Recycling and Refuse Act This law encompasses 13 electronic products, which are now illegal to throw into a landfill. Some examples are televisions, digital converter boxes, CPU's, laptops, printers, and computer keyboards.

Surrender your firearm owner's identifications card Anyone with an order of protection filed against them must now surrender their Firearm Owners Identification Card (FOIC) while the order is valid. Anyone convicted of a domestic battery is ineligible to either obtain or keep his or her FOIC, which firearm owners are required to carry to legally possess or buy a gun.

Andrea's Law

This requires all individuals convicted of first-degree murder be included in a database registry for 10 years following their prison sentence. This law was inspired by a Batavia, IL. woman who was strangled to death by her boy friend, Justin Boulay.

School Internet bullying

This allows school boards and administrators to suspend or expel a student who threatens another student or a school employee via the Internet.

Road Kill

This law allows anyone with an Illinois furbearer license to salvage pelts or even food from the road kill. Republican Rep. Norine Hammond sponsored the bill. She said this law was an opportunity for some people to make money, and could also benefit the state by letting citizens carry out the task, which was once regulated by state highway crews.

District 135 Superintendent search begins

The Orland School District 135 Board of Education is in the initial stages of searching for the district's next Superintendent. The Board is partnering with the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) to assist in the search process. While the position is posted on-line and applications are sent in, the Board is asking for input from the entire Orland community.

In a letter to District staff members and families, Interim Superintendent Dennis Soustek notes that prior to interviewing any candidates, the District 135 Board members are interested in better understanding the qualities the community believes are most important in the next educational leader. Soustek notes, "The survey responses will have a direct impact on the most critical phases of the search process."

The on-line survey will be available throughout the entire month of February on the District 135 website at www.orland135.org and is open for any District 135 community member and staff member to complete.

The results of the survey will be discussed at the Monday, March 12, 2012, regular Board meeting, to be held at the Administration Center at 7:30 p.m.

Water rate increase approved at Hickory Hills Council meeting

by Jan Glaz

After weeks of discussion the Board of Trustees approved a Water Rate Increase and price structure at the Hickory Hills Council Meeting January 26th. The increase amount is sixty cents per thousand gallons of water.

The Ordinance states in part that the basic user charge is $3.00 per month and the rate for actual water usage shall be $5.25 per 1,000 gallons or fraction thereof. Minimums do apply:

Commercial Users have a 5,000 gallon minimum with a minimum charge of $26.25 per monthly billing and Residential Users a 12,000 gallon minimum with a $63.00 minimum charge per quarterly billing.

The Village explained that water bills sent in February will show a .20 cent raise due to the fact that the quarterly bill is for water used in the time period of November, December and January, before passing of the 2012 Ordinance on January 26th. Bills for the next pay period in March of 2012 will show a .40 cent increase and by April of the same year the full amount of .60 cents will be in effect. Any single family residential user who shall qualify as a 'Senior Citizen' shall not be subject to the minimum billing amount and charge. A senior citizen is defined as a taxpayer legally liable for the payment of water charges who is the actual user of the water and who is 65 years of age or older or whose spouse is 65 years of age or older and residing in the same household.

WALGREENS TO SELL SPIRITS: Walgreens has been selling beer and wine products but without a Class A Liquor License they could not take advantage of revenue from other alcohol products listed as Spirits; Vodka, Whiskey, etc.

Walgreens applied for a 'Class A Liquor License' and the Village voted to approve an Ordinance increasing the number of Class A Liquor Licenses; Walgreens will now sell Spirits.

Voter Reminder: You may register to vote in the Village Clerks Office during regular business hours. Monday through Wednesday: 9:00AM to 5:00PM/Thursday.: 9:00AM to 8:00PM/Friday: 9:00AM to 5:00PM. To register, you must provide two pieces of identification, at least one, which must show your current address. Naturalized citizens will need to provide the court, date and city of your naturalization.

Requirements to register are;1.United States Citizenship 2. Age 18 by the date of next election and 3. Reside in election precinct at least 30 days prior to the next election. Voter registration closes 30 days prior to an election.

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The Holy Assembly Color Guard presents the colors at the 8th Annual South Side Classic Youth Wheelchair Basketball Tournament. Pictured, facing the camera, left to right: John Curtin and John Donovan; Father Perez Council; John Flanagan, Robert Speck, Gus Gusman, Ralph Villalovos, and Ramon Ocampo (facing flags), Our Lady of Fatima Council. The members of the color guard are Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, the degree that is based on the principle of patriotism

Knights of Columbus Council 1444 presents colors

Members of Father Perez Knights of Columbus Council #1444 in Mount Greenwood and Our Lady of Fatima Council #13375 in Oak Lawn formed the Holy Family Assembly # 2255 color guard to present the colors at the opening of the Eighth Annual South Side Classic Youth Wheelchair Basketball Tournament sponsored by the Claddagh Foundation and Great Lakes Adaptive Sports (GLASA) in St. Xavier University's Shannon Convocation and Athletics Center on Saturday, January 14th. Following the ceremony, 8 teams in 2 divisions of four teams each played for their respective championships. The teams hailed from Chicago, Peoria, Lincolnway, Carol Stream, Addison and Lake Forest.

Taking Prep Division (12 years old and younger) honors was GLASA while Lincolnway copped the Junior Varsity Division crown.

According to Father Perez Council Grand Knight Jack Ullrich, "This is a great event for the community. I was amazed at the skill and determination of these players. The Claddagh Foundation and GLASA have served the community and these boys and girls significantly. I am already looking forward to next year's event."

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Oak Lawn Senior Center announces two additonal programs in February

The Oak Lawn Senior Center, located at 5330 West 95 Street, offers a variety of recreational activities. Monthly, additional programs are added, Thursday, February 23rd is Box Lunch Day at the Center.

The sponsor of the month is Peace Memorial Village located at 10300 Village Creek Drive in Palos Park. They offer both Independent Living and Assisted Living options that are supported by a wide variety of recreational amenities and services to meet every need.

Tickets are available at the Senior Center for $4.00 and seating is limited. The presentation begins at 10:30 followed by lunch and bingo.

Monday, February 27th at 10:00 a.m. singer and entertainer John Boda will be at the Center. He will delight all with his vast variety of music. Refreshments will be served at the conclusion of his program.

For further information you may call 708-499-0240

First Installment Property Tax Bills Due

Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas said that the 2011 First Installment property tax bills are due March 1, 2012. Pappas encourages paying online at cookcountytreasurer.com to avoid traveling during the winter season.

Payments received after the March 1, 2012, due date will be charged a 1.5 percent penalty per month. Property owners can pay:

Online at cookcountytreasurer.com, from a checking or savings account. You can pay at the Treasurers Office Downtown at more than 400 Chase Bank locations in Chicagoland and from an account at some 200 participating community banks or by mail with a postmark no later than March 1, 2012.

"Paying online allows you to sit at a computer and avoid traveling. Partial payments are accepted. All forms of payment require taxpayers to reference their 14-digit Property Index Number (PIN) located at the top of each tax bill.

Many property owners have their taxes paid from an escrow account managed by mortgage lenders. It is the owner's responsibility to ensure that the lender pays on the correct PIN before the due date.

Taxpayers can call 312.443.5100 for information in English, Polish and Spanish

Worth Museum is featuring author of Oldest Chicago

The Worth Museum is hosting David Witter, Author of "Oldest Chicago" on Wednesday, February 22 7pm at the Museum. Mr. Witter will highlight dozens of the oldest local treasures in Chicago and suburban areas. This program is free.

For more information please call 708 448 7080 x 107. The museum is located at 11500 s Beloit, 3 blocks West of Harlem Ave.

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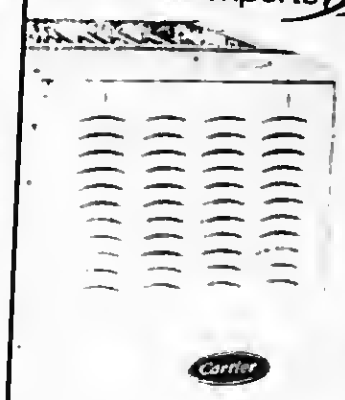

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Letter to the Editor

Robin Steans, Executive Director of the so-called education reform group, Advance Illinois, would lead our community to believe that her organization's involvement in the passage of recent education reforms has had a positive impact on our children's schools.

In a statement released in the January 17th issue of the Village View, Steans' group is identified as an "objective voice to promote a quality public education system in Illinois that prepares all students to be ready for work, college and democratic citizenship".

Nothing could be further from the truth. Advance Illinois is a front group for investment capital based in Chicago, and cochaired by former Republican Governor Jim Edgar and William M. Daley, former vice president of JPMorgan Chase and brother to former Chicago Mayor, Richard Daley.

Steans' father, Harrison Steans, is chair of Financial Investments Corporation and the Steans Family Foundation, a prominent backer of charter schools. With little regard for local community involvement-citizens, teachers, parents of school children and local school groups, Advance Illinois pushed through its education platform in Springfield this past spring by thwarting the democratic process.

Advance Illinois' influence led to education reforms in Illinois that threaten the way best-teaching practices are used by educators in our schools and replaces them with practices that promote a disproportionate emphasis on our kids' standardized test results.

How did Advance accomplish this? By using their political and financial wealth. Advance teamed up with Stand for Children, another corporate-driven school reform organization that is funded by Bill Gates and other wealthy, corporate-driven interest groups.

The Stand group paid local lawmakers. Some legislators, like Illinois House Representative, Toi Hutchinson (D-Steger) were given $100,000 in return for legislative support of their proposals.

Public school activists, concerned with this agenda and its impact our children, were outraged. Among them were New York University Education Research Professor and former Assistant Secretary of Education to President George H. W. Bush, Diane Ravitch.

Testifying before the Illinois House Committee, Ravitch explained of Advance Illinois' agenda; "This mean-spirited legislation will demoralize, demean, and dishearten the men and women who teach the children in the public schools of Illinois. Its other implicit goal is to de-legitimize public education and prepare the ground for more privatization." Steans promises continued Advance Illinois' presence in education reform in our state.

Members of local communities would be wise to educate themselves about Advance Illinois and similar groups composed of big corporate foundations, banking and hedge fund investors who operate under the guise of school reform.

Jerry Mulvihill is a public school teacher, former school board member, public school activist, school volunteer, and father of two students in Southland public schools.

He resides in Alsip, Illinois.

Happy Valentine's Day

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Photo by Wehmeier Portraits
Members of the Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce pose for a photo at the 2011 Business After Hours event held at Together We Cope sponsored by BMO Harris Bank and held at the social service agency's Nu2U Resale Shop in Tinley Park . The organization's 2012 Business After Hours event will take place on Thursday, February 7. Together We Cope is located at 17010 S. Oak Park Avenue in Tinley Park .

Laissez Les Bono Temps Roulez

Multi-Chamber Event Adopts Mardi Gras Theme Orland Park, IL

Join members of the Orland Park Area and Tinley Park Chamber of Commerce at a multi-chamber Business After Hours event hosted by Together We Cope and sponsored by BMO Harris Bank.

The Mardi Gras themed event will take place on Tuesday, February 7 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Together We Cope is located at 17010 S. Oak Park Avenue in Tinley Park . There will be tours of the Together We Cope facility, great food and raffle prizes. Be sure to bring business cards and promotional materials for the display table. All are welcome to attend and there is no charge for this event.

The Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce is a not-for-profit organization that serves as the primary resource for business and the community in Orland Park and the surrounding suburbs. For more information on becoming a member of the Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce or to RSVP for this event, please call (708) 349-2972 or visit the chamber website at www.orlandparkchamber.org.

Leap Into New Technology

On Wednesday, Feb. 29 at 7:00 PM at the Alsip Park District 12521 S. Kostner Avenue, the Adult & Youth Services are joining forces to present a family program of interest to all ages.

The Geek Squad from Lansing's Best Buy will demonstrate the latest in ereaders, tablets and gaming technology.

A raffle will be held at the end of the program. Only residents with a valid Alsip-Merrionette Park library card can win and you must be present. Registration required

Family Library Program for February 2012 Temporary location add 12838 S. Cicero Avenue To register, call the Adult Services Dept. at 708/371-5666 exts. 108 or 109

American Legion hosts Spaghetti Dinner

Marrs Meyer American Legion is have a spaghetti dinner with meatballs, all you can eat Friday, February 10th at 4PM-7PM.

Advance Tickets can be purchased at the bar thru Feb 9th with $1 off.

Tickets at door are $8 adults, $5 kids Marrs-Meyer American Legion Post 99 is at 11001 S. Depot, Worth. The phone number is 708-448-7006.

Orland Park Mayor Dan McLaughlin (right) will again conduct the live auction at the village's February 16th Chefs' Auction to benefit the American Cancer Society's Breast Cancer Research Program. Ticket information is available at 708/403-7275.

Village of Orland Park to Host 12th Annual Chefs' Auction

Fundraiser Ben efits American Cancer Society's Breast Cancer Research Program

Imagine being able to sample the signature dishes of the area's finest chefs all in one place. On Thursday, February 16th, the Village of Orland Park will hold its annual Chefs' Auction to benefit the American Cancer Society's Breast Cancer Research Program.

"Over the last eleven years, Orland Park has raised more than $150,000 for the American Cancer Society's Breast Cancer Research Program," said Orland Park Mayor Dan McLaughlin, who presides over the evening's live auction. "The Chefs' Auction is a great event for a worthy cause and it sells out every year. We encourage everyone to buy their tickets early because it fills so fast," he added.

The Orland Chateau, at 14500 South LaGrange Road , donates the use of its building as restaurants from throughout the region bring in their chefs to serve their signature dishes. The evening also includes fine coffee, wines and ales and raffle prizes. The highlight of the evening is the mayor's live auction of dinner packages donated by the participating establishments.

"The Chefs' Auction is one of the village's most popular events," said Trustee Pat Gira, chair of the village's Recreation & Parks Committee. "It's a fun evening where people can try dishes from a number of restaurants and help a great cause at the same time," she added.

Restaurants confirmed for Orland Park's 2012 Chefs' Auction include Baker's Square, Cooper's Hawk Winery and Restaurant, Fannie May, Flavor Restaurant, Fox's Orland Park, Great Harvest Bread Company, Jenny's Steak House, Mimi's Café, Rock Bottom Restaurant and Brewery.

Also returning this year are the area artists who create paintings to capture the flavor of some of the restaurants. Artists Liz Popp, Eryn Blaser and Susan Berry will create original works of art that will be included with the chosen restaurant auction package.

Tickets are $55 per person or $90 per couple. Corporate tables of ten are available for $600 and include a reserved table, quarter page ad in the program and the table centerpiece. Ads are available for the event program with a full page costing $200, half page at $150, quarter page at $100 or business card size at $50.

Tickets may be purchased at Orland Park's Recreation Administration Building , 14600 South Ravinia Avenue or at the village's Sportsplex, 11351 West 159th Street . Only 350 tickets will be sold. For more information, call the Orland Park Recreation Department at 708/403-7275.

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Paul Cook

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Happy Valentine's Day To All

Terry Gallagher
Candidate for Judge
4th Judicial Sub-Circuit
Cook County
Vote Democratic

Oak Lawn Public Library offers programs for all

Student Artwork on Display at Oak Lawn Library

Student artwork from St. Catherine School in Oak Lawn will be on display in the Youth Services Department of the Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Avenue, during the month of February. Art teacher Monica Dachota coordinated the exhibit, which features work from students in Kindergarten through 8th grade.

Meet the Author: Brigid Pasulka

The Oak Lawn Public Library's new book discussion group "Night Reads" kicks off Wednesday, Feb. 15 at 7 p.m. with award-winning author Brigid Pasulka's "A Long, Long Time Ago and Essentially True." Book discussion will be followed by a Q and A with Pasulka, who will read aloud a favorite passage and sign copies of her novel. No advance registration. Refreshments will be served.

Pasulka's first novel, winner of the 2010 Hemingway Foundation/PEN Award, weaves together two remarkable stories, re-imagining half a century of Polish history through the legacy of one family. For more information, call (708) 422-4990.

Silent Library – High School Edition

Participants in grades 9-12 who are brave enough to face a series of nerve-wracking challenges and willing to put themselves in messy, gross, surprising or goofy situations might just be ready to play "Silent Library – High School Edition" at the Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Avenue, on Thursday, Feb. 16 from 6:30-8 p.m. Registration for this program, based on the popular MTV series, is currently underway at the Youth Services Desk.

For more information about this and other teen programs, call (708) 422-4990 or visit www.oaklawnlibrary.org.

Huge LEGO® Train Display

The Northern Illinois LEGO® Train Club is bringing their huge LEGO® train display to the Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Avenue, on Saturday, Feb. 18 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 19 from 1-5 p.m. Watch trains zoom through cities and villages and past creations from popular movies, all made from LEGOS®. No advance registration. Don't miss this great display!

Free Family Movie: "Rio"

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Avenue, will host a free family movie screening of "Rio" on Monday, Feb. 20 at 2 p.m. When Blu, a domesticated macaw from small-town Minnesota who never learned to fly, meets the fiercely independent Jewel, he takes off on an adventure to Rio de Janeiro with this bird of his dreams. Rated: G. Running time: 96 min. For more information, call 708 422-4990 or visit www.oaklawnlibrary.org.

The Green Teams

Start off 2012 on a green note with environmentalist Emily Kenny! The Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Avenue, will host a free program for students in grades 1-5 titled "Climate Corps" on Tuesday, Feb. 21 from 4-5 p.m. Through exploring new ways to protect their environment, teams will create action plans, play games, make crafts and receive completion badges. Advance registration required. For more information about this and other programs, call (708) 422-4990 or visit www.oaklawnlibrary.org.

Free Movie: "Midnight in Paris"

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Avenue, will host a free movie screening of "Midnight in Paris" on Wednesday, Feb. 22 at 2 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. Director Woody Allen's romantic comedy about a family traveling to the French capital for business. The party includes a young engaged couple forced to confront the illusion that a life different from their own is better. Starring Owen Wilson, Rachel McAdams and Kathy Bates. PG-13. 94 min. For more information, call (708) 422-4990 or visit www.oaklawnlibrary.org.

Online Shopping and Couponing Class

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Avenue, is holding an Online Shopping and Couponing class on Thursday, Feb. 23 from 9-10:30 a.m. This class will cover online shopping and couponing for Internet purchases and provide tips for becoming an educated and savvy shopper. No advance registration; not a hands-on course. For more information, contact the Computer Center at (708) 422-4990.

Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce to host State of the Village address with Mayor Dave Heilmann

The Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce will host its third annual State of the Village address on Tuesday, February 14th at our February luncheon held at the Hilton Oak Lawn 9333 S. Cicero Ave.

The Chamber will welcome special guest speaker, Village President, Dave Heilmann, who will address issues such as the Village infrastructure, taxes, and short- and long-terms plans.

Registration and networking begin at 11:30 a.m., lunch at noon, followed by the State of the Village presentation at 12:45 p.m. Come out and join us. This event is open to members, business owners, residents and anyone interested in hearing about Oak Lawn. This is a good opportunity for networking and meeting other businesses in and around Oak Lawn.

Please contact the Chamber office at (708) 424-8300 or email office@oaklawnchamber.com to reserve your spot. Founded in 1946, today the Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce consists of more than 300 members.

The Chamber of Commerce works to represent and advance the Oak Lawn business community, striving with constant integrity, fairness and cooperation to promote and improve the economic atmosphere, business climate and image of Oak Lawn.

Don't forget to vote in the Primary Election!

Happy Valentine's Day To All

Terry Gallagher

Candidate for Judge
4th Judicial Sub-Circuit
Cook County
Vote Democratic

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- ❑ Guarantee my money. Expose it to upside of market but not down side
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3, 2, 1 Cake is a great idea for everyone

WANT A PIECE OF CAKE BUT DON'T WANT TO BAKE AN ENTIRE BIG CAKE HERE IT IS! ONE PIECE OF CAKE IN ONE SHORT MINUTE!! YOU'RE GOING TO LOVE THIS! 3,2, 1 Cake

This is perfect for those of us with just one or two in the house these days, hate to make a huge cake. This way you can make 3, 2, 1 ... or as many as you need.

3,2, 1 CAKE These individual little cakes are amazing and ready to eat in one minute! They are perfect for whenever you feel like a treat without all the fat and calories that cake can have. Genius idea

INGREDIENTS:

1 box 1-step Angel Food Cake Mix, 1 box Cake Mix - Any Flavor

2 Tbsp. Water Makes 1 serving.

DIRECTIONS:

In a Ziploc bag, combine tbe two cake mixes together and mix well. For each individual cake serving, take out 3 Tablespoons of the cake mix combination and mix it with 2 Tablespoons of water in a small microwave-safe container.

Microwave on high for 1 minute, and you have your own instant individual little cake!

KEEP remaining cake mixture stored in the Ziploc bag and use when ever you feel like a treat! You can top each cake with a dollop of fat free whipped topping and/or some fresh fruit.

Helpful Tips: This recipe is called 3, 2, 1 Cake because all you need to remember is 3 tablespoons mix, 2 tablespoons water, 1 minute in the microwave! TRY various flavors of cake mix like carrot, red velvet, pineapple, lemon, orange, etc. Just remember that one of the mixes has to be the angel food mix; the otber is your choice.

The flavor possibilities are endless!

NOTES: The best thing is, you open both cake mixes into a gallon storage bag, one that 'zip locks' or 'self-seals', or a container that seals tightly, shake the two cake mixes to blend and then make the recipe.

Storage of mix is simple, put it on a shelf. No need to refrigerate, since the mix is dry. Always remember, one of the cake mixes MUST be Angel Food. The other can be any flavor.

The Angel Food is the cake mix that has the egg whites in it. So, if, anyone is allergic to egg whites, you can NOT serve this recipe.

Catholic Charities to Raise Emergency Funds with Trivia Night

Catholic Charities South Region Office will be presenting "Fun with Facts" Trivia Night at Seton Academy 16100 Seton Dr., South Holland, IL 60473 on Saturday, February 18, 2012, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The cost of admission is $15 per person. Catholic Charities will sell beverages. Bring your own snacks. Proceeds will benefit Catholic Charities' Emergency Services in the South Region

For information or to make reservations, please call (708) 333-8379.

photo by Fred Fox Photography

Village View wishes to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Nowak

Christina Schupple, daughter of George Jay and Arlene Schupple, graduate of the University of Illinois, Champaign/Urbana recently married Andrew Nowak on July 30, 2011 at St. Raymond Church in Mount Prospect, Illinois.

We selected this bride for our Bridal Page because she was the fourth female in her family to graduate from the same university. Graduates include her mother Arlene, sisters Julie and Holly, three of them currently are teachers. Congratulations Christina for all of the choices you have made within your life.

Girls' Great Escape gets "Pretty in Pink"

Get "Pretty in Pink" for the Girls' Great Escape weekend February 25 & 26, 2012 at Hilton Oak Lawn/Chicago. This is a great "staycation" for women looking to beat cabin fever and have a great weekend with their friends. The Girls' Great Escape opens with a breakfast on Saturday and then several activities follow in the afternoon including Zumba sessions, a hula hoop class, spa treatments, and a fashion show.

The day concludes with dinner and dancing in one of the incredible ball rooms at the Hilton Oak Lawn/Chicago. Sunday morning features a top notch brunch prepared by the award-winning chefs at Hilton Oak Lawn. For more information about rates or more details about the weekend, call (708) 229-8850. The Hilton Oak Lawn is located at 9333 South Cicero Avenue in Oak Lawn and can be found online at hilton.oaklawn.com

Orland Chamber Hosts Business After Hours Event

Francesca's Vicinato Entertains Chamber Members

Join members of the Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce for a Business After Hours event to be held Tuesday, February 28 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Francesca's Vicinato located at 12960 S. LaGrange Road in Palos Park . There is no fee for admission and all are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served. The Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce is a not-for-profit organization that serves as the primary resource for business and the community in Orland Park and the surrounding suburbs. For more information on becoming a member of the Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce or to RSVP for this event, please call (708) 349-2972 or visit the chamber website at www.orlandparkchamber.org.

Valentine Party being held at the Stickney Senior Center

Louis S. Viverito, Stickney Township Supervisor announces Valentine's Day Party The Louis S. Viverito Senior Center located at 7745 S. Leamington Ave. in Burbank will be hosting a Valentine's Day Party on Tuesday, February 14, 2012.

The party begins at 9:30 A.M. Join us for a fun filled day of bingo, crowning of our annual King and Queen and lunch. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. To register for the party please call (708) 636-8850.

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WE DELIVER

The beginning of our tour in Old Delhi.

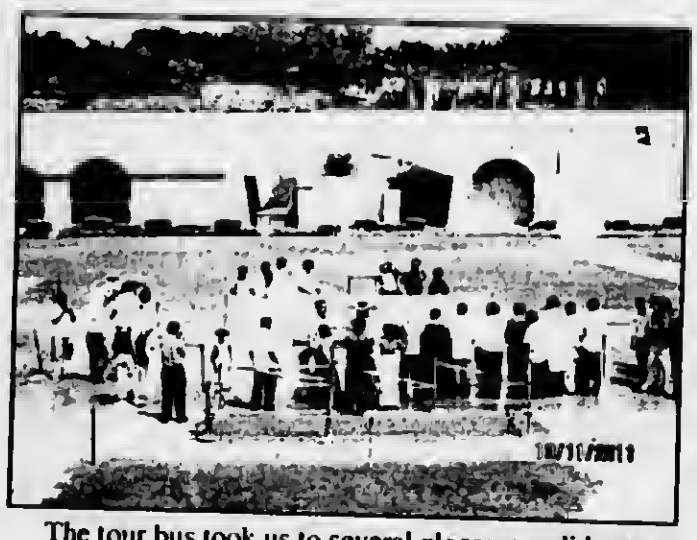
India is an adventure

India is not one of the high priority place to visit on my travel journies, but since I have been to 48 plus countries, I thought I would give want to see what northern India had to offer. While traveling in the northern cities of India and the country of Nepal, I was quite surprised and delighted to be there.

It was there where one of the fellow tourist heard that at the time we were in India, there was a tavel alert from the USA. Travel alerts from the USA indicate problems are severe and trouist are warned not to go abroad. What about if you are already there, will your Indian Guide tell us to leave the country. I don't think so, they usually wait until their own country declares it is unsafe for everyone, and India, in this case would be the one that would extradite us.

I wasn't in the southern part of India so I felt safe, yes there was an earthquake in Nepal a month before I arrived, but again it didn't affect the city of Kathmandu. I was content and happy visiting India and Nepal.

I arrived in Delhi, which is in the state of Haryana on October 13 and checked into the Hilton Janakpuri Hotel with SmartTours after an Air India flight from Chicago.Our guide met us and we departed to see Old Delhi where the magnificent Red Fort was on the agenda, built in 1648, as a symbol of Mughal's Emperor Shahjehan. After walking walking around the sandstone structure, we visited Jama Masjid, India's largest Mosque. My interest was the visitation of Raj Ghat cremation site of Mahatma Gandi, pictured below.



The tour bus took us to several places, we did not get off the bus and I really did not see any tourist visiting these sights; India Gate, which is the War Memorial Arch, the Berla Temple, Presidents House, Parliament House, and Government secretariat buildings. We did get to see and walk through many temples, such as Qutub Minar built by Qutub-ud-din aibek in 1199 AD.

After New and Old Delhi, we went to Jaipur, in the state of Rajasthan, not to be confused with Jodhpur, which had a USA alert to that city. Jaipur was where we visited the Amber Fort which was the ancient capital of the state until 1728. We saw the temple of Kali, the Hall of Victory with its glittering mirrors, Jai Mahal and traveling down

hill while sitting on the back of elephants.

On an overnight stay at the Golden Tulip a lovely hotel and walking along the lake area only made it more memorable. The next day we boarded the bus to Agra, but on route stopped to visit Fatehpur Sikri, a once glittering capital but abandoned due to scarcity of water, more temples and tombs to see. Agra is where the Taj Mahal

was built. It was the first love story told in India thus far. Taj Mahal was built by Mughal Emperor Shahjehan in 1630 for his queen to enshrine the mortal remains. After visiting the Agra Fort a cluster of mosques and palaces on the banks of the river, one of the fellows stated, "do you think we could see something more than just the ancient and dead history of the country." He loved taking pictures, but I think he was looking for an adventure like Disney or for some excitement.

Terry got his wish, we now traveled India's way of first class on a train to Jhansi, just a two hour train ride, but waited for the train at least one and a half hours on the platform. NO STATION! It was interesting watching the people on the top of the train, several cars down in economy class. After the train cars are filled with people the rest will go to the top car, or course, only the men. India's first class is like our economy class on Amtrack.

From Jhansi, which is in the state of Uttar Pradesh along with Agra, we proceed by bus to Khajuraho, which is in Madhya Pradesh. During the drive, we saw Orchha's gradeur which was captured in stone frozen in time and rich legacy to the ages. Again we're speaking of Palaces and Temples built by its Bundela rulers of 16th and 17th century.

Khajuraho is where we stayed at our second Radisson Hotel, one in Agra and this also a Radisson in Varanasi. In these cities Khajuraho was my favorite city because it was the only time whether they be male or female, people were much more friendlier to our group of tourists. First they thought we were all Americans, but 18 people were from Canada, the rest Americans.

Khajuraho temples were built by the Chandela Kings between 950 AD to 1050 AD, still lovely with the 11 headed Vishnu, and the Visha Temple dedicated to Shiva. We went to Varanasi, which is where the holy river Ganges is and where you can see the bathing Ghats and Cremation site a

site. People, such as Hindu, Buddist, bathe and worship in the Ganges River along with Moslem and Islamic people from all over the world.

The Indian people cremate daily, 24 hours. The family members stay with the body until there are only ashes left. Then the family and mourners, men only gather up the ashes into their own urn and deposit them in the Ganges River or bury the ashes or both. This custom takes place depending on the cast system.

Some people in India also believe in burying the dead. We saw several funerals and how they proceed in the street banging on pots and pans blowing horns, some bodies carried by people others place on a carts drawn by camels or donkeys.

After the last three cities in India, we flew to Kathmandu Valley at the foot of the Himalayan mountains. I was in Lhasa, Tibet in 2003 and wished I could return to Mt. Everest which I was unable to see. I believe in 2003 flying from Tibet to Bejing, China, I saw the tip of Everest at quite a distance, as our pilot flew between the peaks of the Himalayas.

Mt. Evcrest largest Mountain in the World 29,035, 6' higher in 1999. This picture was taken from Air India!

What piqued my interest in Kathmandu was the community in the center of town developed for the Tibetans, who left their own country. What I noticed in Nepal, it certainly looked like a prosperous country, with its industries, agriculture and exports to neighboring countries. The buildings were huge, several years ago the city of Kathmandu was destroyed by earthquakes and new development took place.

Of course we went to more temples, but before we did that we had time to be on our own. In India, we didn't have much time to sightsee on our own. It was discouraged in Delhi, but in Jaipur and Khajuraho sight-seeing was encouraged. In the other two cities our guide made it inconvenient for us to sightsee, for we were kept busy both day and night.

The next day, we took an optional flight to see Mt. Everest. We were in a 16 passenger plane costing $200 per person. I was excited until I flew home and was closer to Mt. Everest than ever before.

Review of Prophet's Dilemma

by Annette Dixon

For the past several years Jerry Haymaker has been on the staff of Village View Newpaper. He has written over 26 articles relating to his adventures throughout the world along with his premonitions regarding life threatening situations. Recently he had written an e-book titled Prophets Dilemma which can be found on smashword.com

In describing this book I would say that it is well written for the reader to have a concise literary understanding as to what he experienced and how he discovered the supernatural. Some supernatural events occurred during the life of the Author and are told in a narrative and strait-forward style. Some of the stories are about national events that everyone knows about. They continued on a trip to Israel and prompted a trip to Kabul, Afghanistan. These supernatural messages have remained true and accurate throughout the last thirty five years.

Nostradamus could not have done better. The intrigue of what to do with information of future events is the question. What glory is there to God if nothing comes of it. Years can go by between events but it's not over! Welcome to Jerry's world.

The Palos Village Players present Dead Man's Cell Phone

The Palos Village Players will present their first show of the 2012 season, Dead Man's Cell Phone, a comedy/ drama by Pulitzer Prize nominee Sarah Ruhl, at 7:30 PM on February 10,11,18 and 19 and at 2:00 PM on Sunday, February 12 in the Little Theater of Palos South Middle School, located at 131st St. and 82nd Ave.

The play, a recent addition to the catalogs, starts in a small restaurant when the guy at the next table has "just bit the big one" and his cell phone won't stop ringing. When a woman decides to answer his phone, her fateful act dials her deeply into the dead man's mysterious business and his eccentric family, not to mention trips to the afterlife and the black market. The woman is forced to confront her assumptions about morality, redemption and the need to connect in a technology-obsessed world.

Kathryn Cargill, of Palos Heights plays the woman in question and the dead man is portrayed by Bruce Fredrick (Tinley Park). Peg Crawford, also of Palos Heights , is cast as the dead man's mother. Others in the cast include Len Wcislo (Hickory Hills), Kathleen Sliter (Joliet), Sabrina Mangan (Orland Park) and Lisa G Soloman of Tinley Park.

The play is directed by Lori Nussle of Palos Park and she is assisted by Phyllis Adams, also of Palos Park . Tickets for the show are $15 for adults and $12 for seniors and students. Call 877-PVP-TIXS, Ext.. 801 for reservations. There is also a $26 brunch/theater ticket for the Sunday matinee available from Hackney's Restaurant, 123rd and LaGrange Road . This price does not include tax and tips. For reservations call Hackney's at 708-448-8300.

fml: how Carson McCullers saved my life

fml: how Carson McCullers saved my life is written by Sarah Gubbins and directed by Joanie Schultz featuring Zoe Levin (Emma), Ian Daniel McLaren (Mickey), Lily Mojekwu (Ms. Delaney), Fiona Robert (Jo) and Bradley Grant Smith (Reed).

Beginning February 28 through March 18, 2012. Ticket price is $20 on Saturdays and two for one on Sundays.

Steppenwolf is located at 1650 N. Halsted, (312) 335-1650 Online ticketing available at www.steppenwolf.org For information on Steppenwolf for Young Adult weekday school performances, contact the SYA Education Assistant Lauren Sivak at (312) 654-5643.

Mr. Rickey Call a Meeting

Lookingglass Theatre Company announces Mr. Rickey Call a Meeting, written by Ed Schmidt and directed by Ensemble Member J. Nicole Brooks. The production is currently running through February 19, 2012 at Lookingglass Theatre Company, located inside Chicago's historic Water Tower Water Works, 821 N. Michigan Ave. at Pearson.

Post show discussions for its hit production. Community engagement conversations will run through February 19,2012. The following information for dates with ensueing conversation.

The Speed of Change: Revolution or Evolution?

Sunday, February 5,

Every social movement has its radicals and its reformers, those who demand "Change now!" and those who advocate a more moderate course. Is one path more successful than the other? Or are they both roots of the same tree? And where do you stand on the spectrum? WBEZ's Alison Cuddy will moderate the evening, and Mona Noriega, Commissioner of Human Relations, City of Chicago, and Dr. Barbara Ransby, Professor of African American Studies and History at UIC and biographer of civil rights activist Ella Baker, will join the conversation.

Barrier-Breakers

Thursday, February 9,

Whether it's on the playing field, in the board room, through the glass ceiling, or elsewhere and whether the barriers are race, gender, sexual identity, or others the first one through the door faces particular challenges, obstacles, and unchartered territory. This post-show conversation will focus on those challenges and how they are overcome. Lookingglass Board members will host affinity groups from their companies, including Northern Trust, Sara Lee, and Motorola. The evening will be hosted by Lookingglass Board members and speakers include Phil Burgess of Phil Burgess Consulting; Connie Lindsey, the Head of Corporate Social Responsibility, Northern Trust; and Roberto Sepulveda, Manager of Diversity and Inclusion at Sara Lee.

The Rise and Demise of the Negro Leagues: What Was Lost, and At What Cost?

Sunday, February 12,

The integration of baseball was a step towards full-scale integration across American culture. But it also meant the end of the Negro Leagues, a vast and vibrant baseball league dedicated to African-American players and fans otherwise excluded from America's ballparks. How did baseball and America change when the color-barrier was finally broken? Dr. Carol Adams, President and CEO of the DuSable Museum, and Pemon Rami, Director of Educational Services, DuSable Museum, whose father played with the Negro Leagues, will join the conversation.

Who's In, The Game?: Race and Sports, Then and Now

Sunday, February 19,

From Little League to the Major Leagues, the Saturday morning soccer pitch to Monday Night Football, Americans spend lots of hours and dollars playing or watching sports. How have professional sports changed since Jackie Robinson's debut in the major leagues? How do issues of race and class play out in sports today? What are the economics of sporting events who is playing in uniform, and who is paying to watch them? Minnie Minoso, three-time Gold Glove Winner and "Mr. Chicago White Sox," will join the conversation, along with Bill Savage, Professor of American History at Northwestern University.

A limited number of student tickets are available the day of the show for $20 with valid student ID.

Box Office: Buy online www.lookingglasstheatre.org or by phone at (312) 337-0665. The Lookingglass box office is located at Water Tower Water Works, 821 N. Michigan Ave.

New Philharmonic warms up with popular Valentine Pops

New Philharmonic (NP) and Music Director and Conductor Kirk Muspratt present their popular "Valentine's Pops" concert at the McAninch Arts Center at College of DuPage, 425 Fawell Blvd., Glen Ellyn, Ill. Sunday, Feb. 12 at 3 p.m.

Joining Maestro Muspratt and NP will be guest artists Angela Mannino (soprano) and John Sumners (tenor) for a fun-filled afternoon of music from Broadway, opera and film sure to satisfy the incurable romantic in all of us.

Current events for the Week of February 10

Broadway in Chicago will be presenting the popular love story of all time, with the production of South Pacific. Contact Cadillac Theatre at 151 West Randolph for tickets or ticketmaster.

Book Review

Deirdre Marie Capone is giving the world a unique opportunity to judge the real Al Capone for themselves. You can meet her at Barnes and Noble 297 Oakbrook Circle, Oakbrook, IL on Saturday Febrary 11, 2012 at 11:00 am. Readers get a chance to decide what is true and what is false about Al and other members of this iconic family that made the Capone name so famous.

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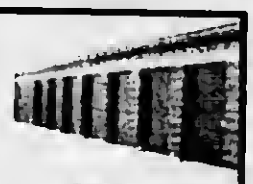

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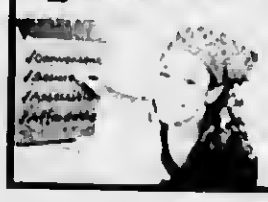

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Treatment Scores With World Series Champs

(NAPSA)-The winners of the last two World Series have something in common.

Both the 2011 champs-the St. Louis Cardinals-and the winners of the 2010 series-the San Francisco Giants-have players who appreciate chiropractic care as an important part of their training regimen.

Dr. Ralph Filson has cared for various members of the St. Louis Cardinals for 14 years. Filson's experience has shown that those who take advantage of chiropractic have a faster recovery time when injured, fewer spinal-related injuries and show better endurance.

Says Cardinals relief pitcher Jason Motte, "I started seeing Dr. Filson this year. Since then, I have not had any arm problems." Dr. Michael Gazdar has worked with the San Francisco Giants since 2008. According to Dr. Gazdar, almost all of the Giants take advantage of chiropractic services. The players recognize the value of chiropractic as part of their health care team.

To learn more, visit the Foundation for Chiropractic Progress at www.yes2chiropractic.com.

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Village View

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SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 38 | Number 16 | February 21, 2012

Burbank, Evergreen Park, Hickory Hills, Justice, Oak Lawn

Hickory Hills 1st Ward Alderman resigns

by Jan Glaz

Congratulations, adulations and applause were present at the Hickory Hills Village Board of Trustees Meeting on February 9th for two residents: John Moirano and Bryan Waight. John Moirano, 1st Ward Alderman, resigned his Seat after accepting Mayor Mike Howley and the City Council's vote of approval for the job of part-time Building Commissioner for the Village of Hickory Hills. Moirano's Seat did not remain vacant long, as Bryan Waight accepted and was sworn in by Mayor Mike Howley as the new 1st Ward Alderman.

John Moirano held the office of Senior Alderman of the 1st Ward for 11 years. "He has an eminence amount of knowledge and experience in building and cares about the City very much and I can't think of a better person who I can recommend for appointment to our Building Commissioner position," said the Mayor before the motion carried.

Mayor Howley delivered an important announcement concerning the issue of Electrical Aggregation, an item the village decided to put on the ballot for the upcoming March Election. He stated that at the Southwest Mayors Conference held in Orland Park there was considerable discussion as to whether the towns going forward with the aggregation referendum would hire a broker to handle it.

Almost half or more of the communities are not retaining a broker to get the referendum passed because they said they felt that through their municipal means they can accomplish the task, which would mean a savings. Mayor Howley revealed that townships will still have the option to hire a broker after the referendum is passed.

Many cities have a government plan that must be followed by law after passage and the towns that have that framework already in place would be more than willing to share with Hickory Hills.

If the Village moves forward with this there is some expense for attorney fees, the government plan and public hearings, but all other savings will go directly to the residents and unlike many towns not just to the general fund. "The Village has not linked up with a broker at this point," the Mayor said.

Mayor Howley then shared another important fact relating to the price of Electricity: Even if the aggregation passes, in June of 2012 ComEd is coming out with new pricing and if the price drops dramatically there is no commitment for Hickory Hills.

The potential Big Savings is going to be in June of 2013, due to ComEd and other companies buying up energy in the future markets at very high prices before the recession.

By 2013 they will be finished with all the expensive energy bought in the futures market. In conclusion the Mayor said the two dates they will be watching is June 2012/2013 for rates to fall.

Oak Lawn approves first step to rename Metra station

by Matt Mayer

The village board at the Feb. 14, 2012 Oak Lawn Board of Trustees meeting approved a name change to the Oak Lawn Metra Train Station to the Oak Lawn Patriot Station in honor of the first responders who died after Sep.11 and the memorial that incorporates beams from the Twin Towers at the station.

Representatives from Tnemec Corporation, a Kansas City, Mo. based industrial coating manufacturer presented the village with the runner up award for a national water tower competition which the company conducted for the newly restored water tower on 95th Street near New England Avenue. The tower incorporates a mural, which features illustrations of Hope Children's Hospital, Village Green Pavilion, Fall on the Green fireworks and the Oak Lawn Hilton. The village also won second place for the streetscape design and landscaping around the water tower.

During the Village Presidents report, Mayor Dave Heilmann discussed an issue, which was raised at a recent finance committee meeting which concerned him regarding developer's plans for construction on the former Beatty Lumber Company site at 9537 S. 52nd Avenue.

I met with the developers on Nov. 22 and told them it would not be feasible on the property due to it being in a residential area, said Heilmann. I sat and talked with those developers at Fox's Restaurant for over an hour and was shocked to discover Village Manager Larry Deetjen had already met the same developers outside Oak Lawn and told them a nine-story or a 13-story office building would be acceptable if the architecture was correct, said Heilmann.

"I know the residents would not go for this I don't want to start an argument but we can't have this happening again", said Heilmann.

In other business the village board approved a request and an ordinance to add an honorary street name "Vallera Parkway" on Kilpatrick Avenue, from 95th to 97th Streets. Three brothers and a sister moved to the area from Italy in 1918. The Vallera's started a concrete company and donated supplies and services for the construction of several village buildings. Vallera family members currently reside in the area.

An ordinance adopting the updated village-zoning map for 2012 was approved as well as an ordinance amending sections of village zoning ordinance. A request to hire 1 police officer from the current eligibility list as well as a request to lease 6 police vehicles from Hawk Ford for $162,162 was also approved. The vehicles will be owned by the village at the end of the lease, Deetjen said.

Evergreen Park approves Sisters of Mercy retirement home plan

by Matt Mayer

Officials at the Feb. 6 Evergreen Park Board of Trustees meeting approved a settlement to ongoing litigation between the village and the Sisters of Mercy. The settlement scales down a proposed retirement home from the original five story, 212-unit plan to a three story, 110-unit development. A modified 146-unit plan was presented to the board at the December 19, 2011 village board meeting but the board rejected that proposal by a 4-2 vote with Trustees Jerome Bosh and James McQullan dissenting.

The retirement home is slated to be constructed at 99th Street and Central Park Avenue adjacent to Southwest School. The scaled down development will consist of the following: 44 independent units, 44 assisted living units, 12 memory care units, and 10 skilled nursing units for a total of 110 total units.

The village filed the lawsuit in 2008 when the Sisters of Mercy proposed the development of the facility for a retirement home center for clergy since the property was not being used for its original purpose. In 1954 the village gave the parcel to the Sisters of Mercy with the stipulation that it would be used for religious education purposes.

The settlement between the village and the Sisters of Mercy states that a privacy wall be constructed between the retirement home and Southwest School. Construction vehicles are prohibited on 99th Street as well as village side streets north of 99th Street. Any future plans for the facility must first be approved by the Evergreen Park Village Board. The retirement facility must now be approved by the City of Chicago.

Tributosaurus – Chicago's favorite tribute band – becomes iconic Belfast-born singer/songwriter Van Morrison, performing rock and soul-inspired hits like "Moondance" and "Brown Eyed Girl" Friday, March 9, 8 p.m. at the Beverly Arts Center, 2407 W. 111th St. (111th Street south on Western), Chicago. Musical anthropologists, Tributosaurus isn't really a tribute band, they are every tribute band, producing shows that sound like the real thing. Tickets are $35 ($32/BAC members). Buy online at www.beverlyartcenter.org. For information, call 773-445-3838.

Village View

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FAR SOUTH EDITION

Volume 10 | Number 4 | February 21, 2012

Oak Forest, Orland Park, Tinley Park

Orland selects one of four proposals

by Jan Glaz

On December 19, 2011 the Orland Park Village Board passed an ordinance to place a referendum question on the March 20, 2012 ballot to allow for an "opt-out" energy aggregation program and subsequently the village published a Request for Qualifications for energy consulting services. At tbe Village of Orland Park Board of Trustees Meeting on February 6th the Board approved the energy aggregation consulting services contract with Northern Illinois Municipal Electric Cooperative (NIMEC).

There are no direct costs to the Village associated with the approval of tbe authorization with NIMEC because fees will be paid on a commission basis by the alternative to Com-Ed as an energy service provider. The village has been a member of NIMEC for many years, participating in the bid process for the villages electricity needs; NIMEC has a successful track record in placing electrical load for street lighting and other electricity needs for multiple municipalities in Northern Illinois.

The Village Board also accepted a proposal for coliform testing from Enviro-Test/Perry. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) regulation (based on Village population) is required to obtain sixty-eight water samples per month from various locations throughout the Village.

The samples must be tested by a certified laboratory within a specific timeframe. Important: Multi-year proposals for testing and reporting services were requested from the only two certified laboratories within a reasonable distance from the Village; Suburban Laboratories, Inc. submitted a price totaling $7.92 per sample but would only guarantee the price for one year. Enviro-Test/Perry Laboratories submitted a total sample cost of $6.95 per sample and will hold that price for the two years. Enviro-Test/Perry Laboratories has performed this testing for the Village without a problem for the past twenty-five years.

OF INTEREST: A check to recognize and support the continued work of the Bridge Teen Center was presented to Priscilla Steinmetz, the Executive Director of the Center. The Bridge Teen Center is a nonprofit teen center located in Orland Park that exclusively serves students in 7th through 12th grade. Programs at The Bridge are offered free of charge, and are designed to help students develop mentally, physically, and emotionally in a safe environment.

Since opening in June of 2010, more than 6,000 hours of free programming have been provided to 700 different teenagers from the Orland Park area in this afterschool program. Priscilla Steinmetz, founder and executive director of The Bridge Teen Center, was recently selected to serve as 2011-2012 Afterschool Ambassador; she is one of 20 local leaders from 17states chosen for this honor.

Mike Hardek, Citizen's Financial Bank; Jim Thompson, Midwest Consulting Group, Inc.; John Bibeau, Mulcahy, Pauritsch, Salvdaor & Co. Ltd.; Paul Novak, Waddell & Reed; and Andy Varga, American Family Insurance.

Super Bowl Thursday in Orland Park

It was Super Bowl Thursday at the Business After Hours event hosted in February by Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce members American Family Insurance, Citizens Financial Bank and Waddell & Reed.

District 135 Superintendent search begins with community input

The Orland School District 135 Board of Education is in the initial stages of searching for the district's next Superintendent. The Board is partnering with the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) to assist in the search process.

While the position is posted online and applications are sent in, the Board is asking for input from the entire Orland community. In a letter to District staff members and families, Interim Superintendent Dennis Soustek notes that prior to interviewing any candidates, the District 135 Board members are interested in better understanding the qualities the community believes are most important in the next educational leader. Soustek notes, "The survey responses will have a direct impact on the most critical phases of the search process."

The online survey will be available throughout the entire month of February on the District 135 website at www.orland135.org and is open for any District 135 community member and staff member to complete.

The results of the survey will be discussed at the Monday, March 12, 2012, regular Board meeting, to be held at the Administration Center at 7:30 p.m.

Advertising is Village View's the only means of revenue, please keep this in mind when reading your free newspaper. Thank You, Annette Dixon, Publisher/Editor

Oak Forest TIF Project aid property owners and School District

by Jan Glaz

Community Development Director Adam Dotson, at the request of Mayor Kuspa, explained why the establishment of a Tax Increment Redevelopment Project was beneficial to the City of Oak Forest at the City Council Meeting held on February 14th. Dotson informed the City Council that the Properties eligible for TIF funding in the Terrace Drive/159 Street TIF Project had seen a decline in property values that hurt the city and the school district. Putting a TIF in place stops the decline and helps the property owners in regards to a redevelopment opportunity. He said it's a large parcel and there is a willing owner who is looking to do redevelopment, the owner believes that the TIF will aid in bringing in a new opportunity for the City Oak Forest and the School District in the form of higher value, better use, and by providing a tax revenue base in the coming years.

Three Ordinances, required by the TIF Act, were approved to establish a Tax Increment Redevelopment Plan and Redevelopment Project for the Terrace Drive/ 159th Street TIF (No.4) Redevelopment Project Area. The first two ordinances required by State law adopt the plan; define the land parcels by legal description and set up a TIF and the last Ordinance sets up the TIF fund utilized by the Auditor and the City Treasurer to set up a special fund within the city's classification of funds which would be the recipient of any TIF incremental dollars.

The City Council also delivered affirmative votes for a Local Debt Recovery Program instituted by the Illinois Comptroller's Office whereby the City of Oak Forest will create a collection file which is then sent to the Comptroller's Office and they will collect money owed to the City, at no cost. Alderman Charles Toland informed the council that he was aware of other communities approving the program and understood that any money that's owed to the city can be collected after due process by withholding a tax refund.

City Clerk Scott Burkhardt officiated the swearing-in of Dominic D'Ambrosio the new Deputy Chief of Police of the Oak Forest Police Department. D'Ambrosio, formerly a Sergeant since 2009, joined the Police Force in 2002. Clerk Burkhardt in turn swore in Officer Thomas Lynch who was promoted to Sergeant, taking the place vacated by Dominic D'Ambrosio.

Before adjourning a motion carried to approve the purchase of a 2002 Elgin Pelican Sweeper from the Village of Mount Prospect for a price of $185,000.00. Public Works Director Troy Ishler explained that the sweeper is a mechanical sweeper, not an air generated sweeper, the kind the city has been using.

Ishler mentioned that the good part of purchasing the Elgin Pelican Sweeper is that the City rents that type of sweeper every fall for about 5 weeks, at a cost of $7,000 to $8,000 yearly.

Village View

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SOUTH SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 13 | Number 4 | February 21, 2012

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

Palos Heights approves road construction projects

by Matt Mayer

The city council approved a request Feb. 7 Palos Heights City Council meeting to implement the phase 2 engineering agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) for the reconstruction of 76Th Avenue between 127th and 131st Streets which includes associated storm sewer improvements for a total cost of $72,500.00. The city's share of $21,750.00 will be obtained from the Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) funds. A request to close a portion of Route 83 from Harlem Avenue west to Route 171 on Sunday May 6 between 4 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. for the First Midwest Bank Southwest Half Marathon Race was also approved.

A request to authorize Mayor Robert Straz to implement a contract with BSI for administrative services for the city's backflow program and bring the city into compliance with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) was approved as well as a request to approve a 22 percent water increase and a sewer increase of $1 effective Feb 1. The increase is based on the 25 percent increase the city received from the Village of Alsip, the city's water supplier. A request for Straz to implement a plat of easement for outlot 2 in the Jewel subdivision for a sanitary sewer connection was also approved.

The city council approved the following payment requests: American Underground $100,312.42 through Dec. 2011 for work completed on the McCarthy Road watermain extension; American Underground $61,096.93 for work completed on the McCarthy Road watermain extension in 2012; N. Batistich, Architects $700.00 for drawings prepared for a salt storage facility; K2N Crest $880.00 for engineering work done for the salt storage facility; Schwartz Construction $37,202.86 for work completed to date on the salt storage facility and Schwartz Construction $11,684.50 for overhead doors at the salt storage facility.

Chicago Ridge approves energy broker

by Matt Mayer

In a telephone conversation with Chicago Ridge regarding the Feb. 7 Chicago Ridge Board of Trustees meeting, the village board approved Illinois Energy Aggregation LLC. as there energy broker if residents approve a referendum on the March 20 primary ballot. The referendum asks residents if they desire to have the village seek municipal aggregation, the purchasing of electricity through a broker rather than directly from ComEd. By the village entering into a cooperative, the village is projected to save residents money on their electric bills. IEA's average savings for municipalities who have joined IEA have averaged around 15 to 20 percent, officials said.

Representative Robert J. Streit from Illinois Energy Aggregation (IEA) outlined the aggregation procedure, which allows residents, municipalities and businesses to increase their purchasing power by buying electricity at bulk rates. IEA aggregates the amount of electricity for the communities they represent and presents this to suppliers for bids. IEA will prepare specifications based solely on Chicago Ridge's needs and distribute the information to electric suppliers in order to receive the most competitive and complete bids.

Following the receipt of all bids, IEA then reviews the bids from all suppliers negotiates for the lowest bid. IEA then prepares a written recommendation, which will be presented to the village board. The broker will also be responsible for conducting a public hearing, organizing and publishing information for residents regarding aggregation

If the referendum is approved, ComEd will continue producing electricity and electricity from the new provider will then run through ComED power lines. The reading of resident's meters will continue to be the responsibility of ComED.

Residents who choose not to be involved in the cooperative or if residents are dissatisfied, they may opt out and continue to purchase electricity from ComEd or any energy broker. IEA has offices at 9713 Southwest Highway in Oak Lawn and 155 W. Washington Street in Chicago. Additional information regarding IEA may be obtained by visiting their Website www.illinoisenergyaggregation.com.

Worth Public Library announce programs

On Saturday, Feb. 25th, the Worth Public Library District, 6917 W. 111th Street, will host a slide lecture program titled "Ancient Roman. Mosaics" at 1:00 PM in the Library Meeting Room.

In this slide lecture, Dr. Michelle Paluch-Mishur discusses Roman floor mosaic materials and processes. She will talk about the major subjects Roman mosaicists depicted, including the animal themes seen in the Lod Mosaic, and how these subjects relate to their specific residential or public setting.

In 2012, The Field Museum hosts a special exhibition about the Lod Mosaic, a colossal floor mosaic from an ancient Roman site in modern day Israel.Dr. Michelle Paluch- Mishur, owner of Art Excursions, Inc. will present the program.

Please register at Worth Public Library or by phone at 448-2855.

Advertise your Parades, Festivals, Events, Sweet Tables, Fish Fry's, Bake Sales, St. Patrick's Dinners, Fashion Shows
Call for more details
at 312-624-8996.

Pictured, from left, are: Fr. Bernie Scianna, O.S.A., '83, Augustinian Provincial; Mr. Ernie Mrozek, '71, President; Fr. Tom McCarthy, O.S.A., '83, Chairman of the Board and Chaplain; Mr. Brendan Conroy, Principal; Fr. Rich Young, O.S.A., Director of Augustinian Mission

New Leaders for St. Rita High School

St. Rita of Cascia High School announced the promotion of several key leaders and the addition of a new position in order to further strengthen the leadership team of the school and enhance the experience of its students in the Augustinian tradition. The new appointments, made by the Augustinian provincial, are effective on July 1.

The president of St. Rita for 12 years, the Rev. Tom McCarthy, O.S.A., 46, has been named vocation director for the East and Midwest Provinces of the Augustinians. To maintain a key leadership role at St. Rita and fulfill his ministry in Augustinian vocations, he will be promoted from the position of president to chairman of the board and chaplain for the school. In these roles, McCarthy will maintain a regular presence at St. Rita, provide strategic direction and continue to minister to students and families.

Current Board Chairman and Vice President Ernie Mrozek, 58, a 1971 St. Rita alumnus, has been appointed president of the high school. Mrozek, a resident of Hinsdale, Ill., retired from a successful career with The ServiceMaster Company in 2008, having served as the Fortune 500 company's chief financial officer and then as its president and chief operating officer. He has served as St. Rita's vice president since 2009.

Additionally, the Rev. Rich Young, O.S.A., 48, a 1982 St. Rita alumnus, has been appointed to the new full-time position of director of Augustinian mission. As director, he will head the newly created Office for Mission and Ministry, directing activities that demonstrate St. Rita's commitment to living out the Augustinian mission and values in all aspects of campus life. Brendan Conroy will continue in his role as principal, supported by his team of assistant principals, faculty and staff.

"Father Tom, Ernie, Father Rich and Brendan make a very strong senior leadership team with complementary skill sets, and we are confident these promotions will ensure the continued success of St. Rita," said the Rev. Bernard C. Scianna, O.S.A.

Village View

We serve our community with good news!

B-MAC EDITION

Volume 6 | Number 4 | February 21, 2012

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

No beaters for Midlothian

by Jan Glaz

Mayor Terry Stephens and the Board of Trustees entered into a lengthy discussion before approving a motion to deny a request from Lightning Motors at the Village of Midlothian Town Meeting held on February 8, 2012. Mayor Stephens announced that Lightening Motors, a used car operation, was to take the place of Watson Motors Sports.

The Village Board had approved a plan for no more new used car operations in the Village Center Area, but when Lightening Motors made a request to open a business in the area the Village reconsidered its position on the basis of tax revenue. However, after details of the request were reviewed they decided to deny Lightening Motors request.

Primarily, Lightening Motors/ Watson Motors could not fulfill a main stipulation, the excavation of four underground storage tanks that had to be removed according to the EPA who did a $100,000.00, Phase 2 study. Watson said he did not have the funds for removal but promised to do so when he sold the property; the Village believed the promise to be questionable. Another factor was the reluctance of Lightening Motors to remove the current property signs, which were legal for Watson Motor Sports, but due to the current sign ordinance, not legal if the property changed hands.

Mayor Stephens also voiced his concern on the issue of the price point of the vehicles stating, "We don't want to see cars out there that are going to be in the $2,000-$3,000 range; they're just basically beaters." Although Lightening Motors assured the Village that the intention of their business plan was in the $8,000-$15,000 range, the Village felt that due to the economy being questionable Lightening's inventory would show whatever the market demanded. It was disclosed that Lightening Motors desired a 50% sales tax rebate and a Class 8 property tax break (meaning if the business failed Midlothian would be stuck with the Class 8 for years, in an area previously zoned otherwise). In conclusion, Village Attorney J. Daniel McGrath commented that the request for this business entails a combination of negative issues and a reduction of the proposed Village revenue.

Board Approved Expenditures: Six links of 1 ¾" 50-foot hoses not to exceed $780; purchase of John Deer Backhoe (Model #310SK) for the price of $86,000 minus trade-in of $10,000 for a final cost of $76,000 from West Side Tractor; replacement of six black and white cameras for color cameras $2,220.00 and two audio microphones $470.00 a total amount of $2,690.00 through Goldy Locks, Inc.; an approval for Chief Burke and Deputy Chief Zamiar to attend the South Suburban ACOP Executive Development Conference from May 3, 2012 through May 6, 2012 for a total cost of $990.00 held at Eagle Ridge Resort in Galena, Illinois. The last item of interest was one to update and be in compliance; an approval of relocation of Opticom System; removal and installation of 4 light poles and a 15% cost for engineering associated to I-294/I-57 Interchange paid to IDOT in the amount of $57,845.

Items approved by the Board of Trustees from the Consent Agenda included: An application and fee of $250 for (BASSET) Beverage, Alcohol, Sales, Service, Education and Training Program.

A program sponsored by the Illinois Liquor Control Commission. It's a program for those who sell or serve alcohol at stores, bars and restaurants to be trained to check ID cards properly and also how to tactfully avoid over serving patrons; Ordinance text amendments for the height of monument signs, raising the height from the now 8' to 12', also to provide public notice with signs, but not with publication. Mayor Stephens commented that the amendment would save the village money on sending notification by certified mail.

Crestwood and Midlothian share fire services

by Jan Glaz

On February 16th at Crestwood Village Board Meeting two resolutions were approved relating to Fire Services between the Village of Crestwood and the Village of Midlothian. The first; an Inter-Governmental Agreement to share Fire Services between the Village of Crestwood and the Village of Midlothian for mutual aid response for certain Fire Department service calls and the second; provided an agreement for Auto Aid Fire Assistance by and between both Villages.

Mayor Robert Stranczek clarified the granting of a variation from the face brick requirements listed on the agenda as prescribed in the "Zoning Ordinance and Official Plan" of the Village of Crestwood and known as Section Title XV Section 159.015(B)(1)(a), Title X1 of the Crestwood Village Code (13200 S. Cicero Avenue) (Statement of Terms of Relief) as referring to the face brick pertaining to the remodeling of the K-Mart Store which is no longer in business.

He also commented that an Ordinance Granting a Special use known as Title XV of the Crestwood Village Code at 4735-39 West 135th Street relates to a new Motor Sports Business in Crestwood.

Other News: Flood relief is coming to Crestwood along the Tinley Park creek. The Mayor has been working for the past two years to convince the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District to help relieve the flood water that passes through the Village heading toward the Cal-Sag Canal by way of the Creek.

The district is currently designing a flood water improvement project along Tinley Creek between Central Avenue and Route 83 in Crestwood to improve the flow of flood water in the creek from 2,000 feet downstream of Central Avenue and will stabilize stream banks for 1,000 feet following.

This is designed to remove 173 properties from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's regulatory flood plan and to protect nearby properties. It will also reduce stream bank erosion. Construction is expected to begin in mid-2013 and completion is estimated at around 12 months.

Support your communities by shopping in them!

Top Row (Left to right) Bob Schneider, Commissioner; Laurie Nissen, Recreation Supervisor; Joe Schmitt, Commissioner Bottom Row (left to right) Denise Michalski, Recreation Supervisor; Jeannette Huber, Director.

Alsip Park District received Statewide Award

The Alsip Park District was recently presented with the Illinois Association of Park District's (IAPD) Youth License Plate Best Promotional Practices Award.

This annual award is presented to a park district, forest preserve, conservation, recreation or special recreation agency that has shown insightful, creative ways to promote the Park District Youth License Plate through their events and programs. Jeannette Huber, Director of Parks and Recreation for the Alsip Park District, accepted the award at IAPD's annual business meeting at the Hyatt Regency Chicago.

"The Alsip Park District has been a strong supporter of the Park District Youth License Plate program, which is an important revenue generator for beyond school programs that focus on childhood health, fitness and nutrition," said Peter Murphy, IAPD President and Chief Executive Officer. "Their innovative efforts to promote the plate set a wonderful example for other park, recreation and conservation agencies throughout the state."

Proceeds from the sale and renewal of each Park District Youth License Plate, which features a four-color kite, are placed into a grant fund for park, recreation and conservation agencies to create beyond-school programs, or enhance existing programs, that teach children the importance of health, fitness and nutrition. Contact IAPD at 1-877-783-KIDS for information about purchasing a plate.

Terry Gallagher to The Josephine and John's Place

Terry Gallagher , an experienced trial lawyer, will address the Josephine & John's Place, Wednesday, March 7 at 12:15 p.m. at Maple Park United Methodist Church , 1225 W. 117th Street .

Vivian Lewis, coordinator, announced that Terry will discuss the importance of knowing when it is in your own interest to consult with a lawyer. Terry, while serving on active duty in the U.S. Navy was in the United States Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps. Beside both prosecuting and defending cases in the Navy and Marine Corps he assisted military members and their dependents on a variety of civil matters, helping them with debt collectors, preparing wills among other matters.

Terry attended Loyola Academy , St. Mary's University and graduated from Seattle University School of Law, Seattle , Washington with a Juris Doctor Degree. He currently focuses his practice on assisting individuals who have been charged with crimes, assisting those who's Constitutional and civil rights have been violated and assisting individuals who have been injured due to negligence.

Election is March 20!
Running for an Election.
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We have found that through the years of publishing the readers are interested in general information and also local happenings within their community. Therefore because we are fully electronic, we will not be accepting faxed or mailed news releases.

League of Women Voters to Moderate Candidates Forum

On March 5th at 7:00 p.m. at the Palos Heights Public Library, 12501 S. 71st Ave., the League of Women Voters of the Palos-Orland Area will moderate a candidates Forum featuring the candidates for Senate District 18 and Representative District 35. The candidates for the Senate are Barbara Ruth Bellar (R), Ricardo A. Fernandez (R), and Bill Cunningham (D).

The candidates for Representative are Frances Ann Hurley (D), Andrew Byrne Hodorowicz (D), and Steven Williams (R). The primary election will be Mareh 20, 2012. Questions will be accepted from the audience. Moderator for the forum will be Barbara Pasquinelli, Co-President of the League of Women Voters of the Palos-Orland Area. Plan to attend this forum. Be an informed voter!

Justice amends guidelines for union employees

by Jan Glaz

A Motion was approved to revise portions of the Village of Justice Employee Handbook for at-will employees at the City Council Meeting held on February 13th. Trustee Sue Small commented that the Trustees spent up to 50 hours and over 8 to 9 months trying to devise a fair and equitable Employee Handbook for the village's nonunion employees. Trustee Small also explained that in the past there was not true nonunion policy in place and the improved handbook will get the nonunion personnel on the same page with regard to certain policies such as sick days, holidays etc.

Previously, in the last twenty years, different departments utilized separate procedures. Village Attorney Michael Castellino further clarified that the motion is being adopted consistent with the old Ordinance and subject to further modifications so as not to contradict accumulated benefits.

The Board of Trustees agreed to pass the following resolutions: Authorizing and approving an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Illinois Office of the Comptroller.

Trustee Melanie Kuban explained that the outstanding tickets and fines written through the police department will be collected through the Comptroller's Office on the State Income Tax; Authorizing the closure of Archer Avenue between Roberts Road and 88th Avenue on October 28, 2012 from 7:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. for the Indian Springs School District 109 Scholarship 5K Run; Authorization to pay estimate #1 to install sidewalks under two grants, DCEO and CMAQ sidewalk projects, in the amount of $33,972.05, and the Authorization of a donation in the amount of $500.00 from the Special Events funds to the Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor.

Before the meeting adjourned it was announced that the next regular Village of Justice President and Board of Trustees Meeting on February 27th will convene at 7:00 p.m. instead of 7:30 p.m., due to the Police Awards Resolution Supporting the Inclusion of Poland in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program

Bridgeview agrees to split the cost of Crossing Guards

by Jan Glaz

An Intergovernmental Agreement (Crossing Guard Services) between the Board of Education of Indian Springs School District Number 109, Cook County, Illinois and the Village of Bridgeview met with an affirmative vote at the regularly scheduled Board of Trustees Meeting February 15th. Trustee Norma Pinion was pleased to announce that the agreement specifies that the Indian Springs School District will pay most of the costs.

The Village of Bridgeview has retained the services of Michael R. Davies, Ltd. To represent the village on municipal tax appeals for the property the village owns and is required to pay property taxes. Mayor Landek mentioned, "As everyone protests their taxes we should too."

The next order of business announced by Mayor Landek was the 2nd Public Hearing for comments on the Village's proposed application for the 2012 Cook County Community Development Block Grant Program. Attorney Cainkar presided and informed all that the legal notice for this hearing was published in the Bridgeview Independent on January 18, 2012. The grant application is prepared for a request of $90,000.00 of CDBG money for the street reconstruction of 92nd Street to 93rd Street and 93rd Street to Thomas Avenue to Odella Avenue. The total project cost is $141,817.00 and the project would be in Block Group 1 which has a 68.8% lower to moderate income persons. The last date of filing is February 17th 2012: After the Public Hearing the City Council approved the Resolution of the Village of Bridgeview Grant Application for the 2012 Cook County Development Block Grant Program.

Trustee James Cecott delivered a public announcement that the recycling of electronic equipment would no longer be acceptable by the village scavenger service as of January 1st but if anyone needs dispose of electronic equipment Oak Lawn has an Electronic Waste Drop facility on 98th Street close to Chicago Ridge Mall. The address is available at the Clerk's Office. Cecott also mentioned that an agreement is in place to set up a recycling electronics center at the Community Center in Bridgeview about the middle of March.

Near the end of the meeting one motion carried: The Department of Public Works Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Village of Bridgeview and Service Employees International Union Local 73. This is not an extension but a new contract agreement for a period of 4 years

Mark Meskimen of Oak Lawn wins top honors for sales and customer service at Verizon

National President's Cabinet Honor Awarded to Company's Top Sales Performers Verizon Wireless has named Mark Meskimen, Business Account Executive in Schaumburg, Ill., to the company's prestigious President's Cabinet. The honor is reserved for those ranking in the top one percent nationally in sales during 2011, placing him as one of the company's top per-formers from among its more than 25,000 sales people nationwide.

Meskimen earned the distinction by demonstrating exceptional sales leadership and delivering an outstanding customer experience from wireless devices like the 4G LTE-capable Galaxy™ Nexus™ by Samsung and DROID XYBOARD by Motorola, to productivity tools, including wireless data applications like Mobile Broadband.

"At Verizon Wireless, we are very focused on listening to our customers and making sure they have the best wireless experience possible," said TJ. Fox, region president, Verizon Wireless. "Mark works diligently to understand and meet his customers' needs and exceed their expectations."

Meskimen graduated from Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan

Lipinski Votes to Extend Middle-Class Payroll Tax Cut, Preserve Unemployment Benefits, Stop Medicare Cuts – Urges More Deficit Reduction

Congressman Dan Lipinski (IL-3) voted to temporarily extend the payroll tax cut for the hard-hit middle class, preserve extended unemployment benefits for Americans struggling to find work, and prevent a Medicare cut that would threaten seniors' access to their doctors. The extension of the payroll tax cut through the end of the year prevents a tax hike of $1,000 for the typical family. The legislation also requires that money from the general fund be deposited into the Social Security Trust Fund to make up for the lost payroll tax revenue and ensure that Social Security's finances are not harmed and seniors will continue to receive the ir promised benefits.

"I am glad the two parties were finally able to reach a deal that avoids a tax hike on the middle class at a time of continuing high unemployment, prevents the end of extended unemployment benefits for Americans who cannot find a job despite their best efforts, and stops Medicare cuts that would have threatened seniors' access to their doctors," Rep. Lipinski said. "Failure to take action on these matters would have hurt tens of millions of Americans.

"However, I am disappointed that the two sides were only able to offset a portion of the costs. The inability to reach agreement on how to pay for this legislation is another failure and shows the need for greater bipartisanship in Washington. Having voted for the bipartisan, $2.1 trillion deficit reduction package in August and for a Balanced Budget Amendment, I believe we must act to reduce the national debt. I also believe we must be vigilant to ensure that the payroll tax cut does not form a precedent that results in any weakening of Social Security for those who rely on it.

"Congress needs to stop the partisan bickering and focus on finding common ground to do what is right for the American people. From the beginning, I urged both parties to work together to quickly address the expiration of the payroll tax cut, extend emergency unemployment insurance, and preserve access to care for seniors on Medicare and then immediately turn their attention to job creation. Instead, the talks dragged on for months, nearly blew up and resulted in a tax hike in December, and finally ended this week in a bill that while better than the alternative came up short in one important respect. The country is sick of the partisanship in Washington, and so am I. We can and must do better."

Rep. Kelly Burke accepts appreciation plaque from Burbank Fire Dept. Battalion Chief Martin Kreil (right), Evergreen Park Fire Dept. Chief Ronald Kleinhaus (second right), and Burbank Fire Dept. Chief Rich Harper (left) on Monday.

Local Fire Agencies Thank Burke for Disaster Preparedness Support

State Rep. Kelly Burke (D-Evergreen Park) was presented with an appreciation plaque from local area fire chiefs and members of the statewide Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) Division 21 on Monday as thanks for her ongoing support of disaster preparedness. Local fire chiefs from MABAS Division 21 are part of an intergovernmental cooperative called MABAS, which includes 68 divisions, nearly 1,100 fire agencies, and 38,000 firefighters and EMTs whose mission is to share resources through a statewide plan to support stricken member cities, towns and villages.

"I am privileged to be a part of such a top-notch response system as the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System," Burke said. "By fostering the partnership between MABAS and other state agencies such as the Department of Public Health and Illinois Emergency Management Agency, we can help make much needed resources available statewide when disaster strikes and keep our communities as safe and prepared as possible."

MABAS has been recognized as one of the national leaders of local mutual aid systems by the International Association of Fire Chiefs, FEMA, and the Department of Homeland Security.

For more information or for assistance with state programs or services, please call Rep. Burke's constituent service office at (708) 425-0571.

Lenten Feast

St. Albert the Great Parish invites you for Fish Fry Fridays during Lent February 24, March 2, March 9, March 16, March 23, March 30 at 4:00 pm to 7:30pm in Rogers Hall (church basement) 5555 West State Road Burbank, IL (80th & Central). Call 708-423-0321 for more information.

Our fish fry volunteers are ready to serve you the very best fish, shrimp, and pasta dinners. Fish Dinner includes choice of baked potato or fries or mac & cheese, with roll & butter, dessert, *coffee/juice. * other beverages available for purchase. The following prices are:

$ 9.00 Shrimp Dinner
$ 11.00 Lasagna Dinner
$ 7.00 Pasta Dinner
$ 6.00 Fish sandwich
$ 5.00 Kids' Dinners
$ 4.00 Includes 1 piece of fish, French fries, pasta or mac & cheese, juice
$ 2.00 French Fries

Oak Lawn Children's Museum offer great deals

The museum will be open until 8 p.m. on Friday, February 24th, Special Holiday Hours: The museum will be open until 8 pm on Friday, February 24th. Monday, March 5th, Casmir Pulaski Day Reduced admission program for the museum: The Museum Admission Card allows you to purchase 10 admissions for just $5 each.

The card sells for $50, which is a 17% savings off of single ticket admission.

National Endowment of the Arts Program:

·Tuesday's and Wednesday's join Karen for Story and Music Time starting at 11am.

·Wednesday's join Nicole for Dance Time starting at 12pm

·Wednesday's join Bernadette for Art Time starting at 4pm This event is for all members and general admission visitors at no additional fee. There is no need for registration.

Triple Threat Art Program:

· Friday, March 9th, join us for some hands on fun with Karen, Bernadette and Nicole. They will be running various classes on art, music, and dance all with a Spring theme. This event is for all members and general admission visitors at no additional fee. There is no need for registration.

Children's Museum in Oak Lawn is looking for volunteers. Being a volunteer at the Children's Museum in Oak Lawn can be very rewarding. Come by the museum on Fri., Feb. 24th and March 9th at 5:30pm for volunteer orientation. Also, the museum accepts volunteers ages 13-years-old and older. Any questions can be directed to Barb McMillin at (708) 423-6709 extension 203 or barb.mcmillin@cmoaklawn.org Tracey BarattiaAdministrative Assistant at 5100 Museum Drive Oak Lawn, IL 60453 Tel.: (708) 423-6709 ext. 206 Fax: (708) 423-6723 tracey.baratiia@cmoaklawn.org http://www.cmoaklawn.org

Don't Forget to Vote March 20!

Queen of Peace announces New Varsity Volleyball Coach

Queen of Peace welcomes Megan (McDonough) Jones as their new head varsity volleyball coach for the 2012-13 season. Megan was a member of the Carl Sandburg High School state championship team in 1998. She then went on to become a four year member of the Bradley University Women's volleyball team. For the past several years, Megan has coached various age groups with the Chicago Juniors Volleyball Club where her teams have qualified for Nationals in three of the last four years.

Her coaching career at Peace will begin with summer volleyball camps beginning in July. Students from 3rd through 8th grade as well as incoming freshmen and current players are encouraged to enroll in the camps to receive quality instruction from this gifted and energetic coach and her staff.

Megan (McDonough) Jones, new Queen of Peace High School Head Varsity Volleyball Coach

Come Join
SCANDINAVIAN PARK, INC. NFP
in 2012

Saturday, March 3, 2012: Annual Spring Dinner Dance & Fundraiser at the Des Plaines Elks Club
Saturday, May 5, 2012: Valburg Clean Up Day at Vasa Park with Volunteer Lunch
Saturday, June 23, 2012: Scandinavian Midsommar Celebration & NEW Viking Family Campout at Vasa Park
Saturday, August 11, 2012: Steak Fry with Crayfish Sampling at Vasa Park
Sunday, September 9, 2012: The 33rd Annual Scandinavian Day Festival at Vasa Park
Saturday, October 6, 2012: Annual Fish Boil & Harvest Festival at Vasa Park
Saturday, October 27, 2012: Annual Scandinavian Park Membership Meeting and Complimentary Breakfast
Saturday, November 3, 2012: End of Year Clean Up Day at Vasa Park with Volunteer Lunch

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Info: SconPork Hotline 847-695-6720 * E-mail: vosaporkil@yohoo.com
Websites: www.vosaporkil.com and www.scondinoviondoyil.com

Alsip Merrionette Park Public Library announces temporary location

Family Library Program for February 2012 Temporary location address Alsip-Merrionette Park Public Library 12838 S. Cicero Avenue To register, call the Adult Services Dept. at 708/371-5666 exts. 108 or 109.

Leap Into New Technology Wednesday, February 29 at 7:00 PM At the Alsip Park District 12521 S. Kostner Avenue Adult & Youth Services are joining forces to present a family program of interest to all ages.

The Geek Squad from Lansing's Best Buy will demonstrate the latest in ereaders, tablets and gaming technology.

A raffle will be held at the end of the program. Only residents with a valid Alsip-Merrionette Park library card can win and you must be present. Registration required.

Friends of Acorn Public Library announce new book sale room

The Friends of the Acorn Public Library are pleased to announce the opening of a new Book Sale room at the Library. This room will provide the Friends with a permanent, on-going location to sell books and other items to library patrons. Its expected opening date is February 21, 2012.

The Friends Book Sale Room will be located on the east side of the library's upper level, in the vestibule to the former main entrance. This entrance was turned into an emergency exit when a new main entrance was built during the library's recent renovation.

"The Friends are eager to make this room a success by having many inexpensive books available for sale on a continuous basis," said Robert Shinn, Chairmen of Book Sales for the Friends group. All funds received from the sales will go to support special activities and projects at the library.

"I'm extremely grateful for the hard work the Friends have put into making this book sale room look great," said Eric Werthmann, the library's director. "The new room is a wonderful addition to the library and I'm confident that our patrons will love it."

New classes from the Evergreen Park Recreation Department

Developmental basketball league New session will begin on Sundays, starting February 19th and continuing until April 15th, held at the Activity Center, 3220 W. 98th Street Fee: $60.00 for 8 weeks 5 - 7 year olds 3:00 until 4:00PM 8 10 year olds 4:00 - 5:00 PM

Adult Yoga These are the dates for the next session of yoga beginning February 28th or 29th Tuesdays, 7:00 - 8:00 and 8:15 - 9:15 P.M. held at Southeast School, 98th & Francisco Wednesdays, 10:00 -until 11:00 A.M., held at Senior Center, 9547 Homan 8:00 - 9:15 P.M., held at Community Center, 3450 W. 97th Fee: $48.00 for 6 weeks.

Young Rembrandts drawing program Preschool drawing for 3 to 5 year olds, 2:00 until 2:45 PM Elementary drawing for 6 years old to 12 year olds, 4:00 until 5:00 PM Cartoon drawing for 6 to 13 year olds, 5:00 until 6:00 PM Fee: $57.50 for 6 weeks Starting Tuesday, February 28.

Girls Night Out Girls 2nd thru 5th grade Make a craft, decorate cookies, and get your nails done! Friday, March 9th from 6:00 until 8:00PM Fee: $15.00 person

Whiffle T-Ball Boys and Girls ages 3 to 5 years old Wednesdays, Thursdays, or Saturdays beginning April 18, 19 or 21. Fee: $50.00 for 6 weeks Registration begins March 7

Spring Tumbling Boys and Girls ages 4 to 13 years old Starting Tuesday, April 17 Fee: $50.00 for 45 minute class, and $55.00 1 hour class, runs 6 weeks Times: TBA Registration begins Wednesday, March 7, 2012

All Registration is taken at the Recreation Department office located at 3450 W 97th Street, Monday thru Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and Saturday from 9:00 AM until 1:30 PM. For more information please call, 708-229-3373.

Artists celebrate Chicago's 175th Birthday with new interpretations of the City's Flag and Seal

Free Printmaking Demo and Workshop to Take Place March 3 at Expo 72

In anticipation of Chicago's 175th Birthday on March 4, The Flag and Seal Revisited, a new component of the Pulled, Pressed & Printed, Chicago exhibition currently running at Expo 72, will feature artworks that riff on the Chicago flag and seal. The Flag and Seal Revisited and Pulled, Pressed & Printed, Chicago both focus on etching, engraving and screenprinting from a variety of Chicago printing presses and independent artists.

The Flag and Seal Revisited will be unveiled on Friday, March 2 with a free reception open to the public from 5:30 until 7:30 p.m. at Expo 72, 72 E. Randolph Street. Expo 72 is open Mondays thru Thursdays, 8 a.m. until 7 p.m.; Fridays, 8 a.m. until 6 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m. until 6 p.m.; and Sundays, 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.

Admission is free. Pulled, Pressed & Printed, Chicago and The Flag and Seal Revisited run through April 30.

For more information, www.ExploreChicago.org.

A brief history of the Chicago flag and seal written by Tim Samuelson, cultural historian for the City of Chicago, will be featured in the exhibition. Artwork will be updated with artists' reinterpretations of the flag and seal throughout the exhibition's run.

The public is invited to create their own versions of the Chicago flag and seal on Saturday, March 3, from 1 until 4 p.m. at a free workshop and printmaking demonstration presented by Spudnik Press.

Participants will have an opportunity to ink and print on paper using an etched plate and a portable press. Materials will be provided.

Pulled, Pressed & Printed, Chicago and The Flag and Seal Revisited are presented by the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, in partnership with the Chicago Office of Tourism and Culture.

The Flag and Seal Revisited component of Pulled, Pressed & Printed, Chicago promotes the upcoming 175th Birthday of the City of Chicago.

Chicago's 175th Birthday Celebrate Chicago's 175th Birthday in 2012!

Kickoff a year of festivities beginning Sunday, March 4, with the City's official birthday party at the Chicago History Museum. Then enjoy 175 Days to Love Chicago through August 26 www.ExploreChicago.org/175days (launching March 2) to find events, festivals, promotions and fun facts to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the city's incorporation.

In the meantime, discover 175 Ways to Love Chicago from the perspective of 35 notable Chicagoans, including new ways to celebrate and explore Chicago every day, www.ExploreChicago.org.

Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events

The Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE) is dedicated to promoting and supporting Chicago's arts and culture sector.

This includes, but is not limited to: fostering the development of Chicago's nonprofit arts sector, independent working artists, and for-profit arts businesses; presenting high-quality, free or low-fee cultural programs accessible to residents and visitors; and marketing the City's cultural assets to local, regional, and global audiences.

DCASE produces nearly 2,000 public programs, events and support services annually, generating millions in economic benefits for the City of Chicago.

Chicago Office of Tourism and Culture

The Chicago Office of Tourism and Culture (COTC) is dedicated to promoting Chicago as a premier cultural destination to domestic and international leisure travelers, providing innovative visitor programs and services, and presenting free world-class public programs.

COTC supports local artists through grants and other resources and creates vital opportunities for artists of all levels.

For more information please visit www.ExploreChicago.org.

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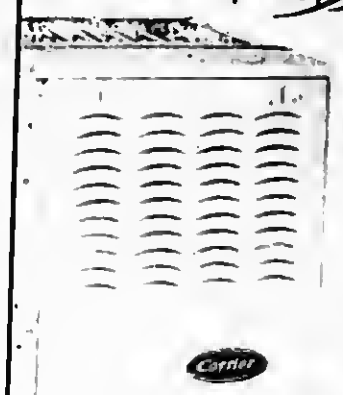

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HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announces major progress in doctors, hospital use of health information technology

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced the number of hospitals using health information technology (IT) has more than doubled in the last two years. She also announced new data showing nearly 2,000 hospitals and more than 41,000 doctors have received $3.1 billion in incentive payments for ensuring meaningful use of health IT, particularly certified Electronic Health Records (EHR).

Secretary Sebelius is in Kansas City, Missouri visiting Metropolitan Community College-Penn Valley Health Science Institute to make this announcement and discuss the growth of professional jobs in the health information technology field.

"Health IT is the foundation for a truly 21st century health system where we pay for the right care, not just more care," said Secretary Sebelius. "Health care professionals and hospitals are taking advantage of this unprecedented opportunity to begin using smarter, new technology that improves care and creates the jobs we need for an economy built to last."

Today's announcement details information from a new survey conducted by the American Hospital Association and reported by the HHS Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT which found that the percentage of U.S. hospitals that had adopted EHRs has more than doubled from 16 to 35 percent between 2009 and 2011. And, 85 percent of hospitals now report that by 2015 they intend to take advantage of the incentive payments made available through the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs.

The announcement also highlights new data from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) detailing $3.12 billion in incentive payments the agency has made to physicians, hospitals, and other health care providers who have started to meaningfully use EHRs to improve the quality of patient care. In January alone, CMS provided $519 million to eligible providers. EHR incentive payments can total as much as $44,000 under the Medicare EHR Incentive Program and $63,750 under the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the number of health IT jobs across the country is expected to increase by 20 percent from 2008 to 2018, a pace much faster than the average for all occupations through 2018. In conjunction with her announcement today, Secretary Sebelius will tour the Penn Valley Community College Health Science Institute, which trains students for careers in this growing industry. She will also participate in a roundtable discussion with Community College leaders, students training in the health IT field, health care providers, patients and area employers about the importance of health information technology training in both improving patient outcomes and creating jobs.

The Obama administration provides financial support to eligible health care professionals and hospitals to make the switch to health IT and certified EHRs through the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs. These programs are funded by the HITECH Act provisions of the 2009 Recovery Act. The administration has also created a nationwide network of 62 Regional Extension Centers to provide technical guidance and resources to help eligible health care providers participate in the EHR Incentive Programs and meaningfully use certified EHRs.

To meet the demand for workers with health IT experience and training, the Obama Administration has also launched four workforce training programs. Training is provided through 82 community colleges and nine universities nationwide. As of January 2012, over 9,000 community college students have been trained for health IT careers and another 8,706 students have enrolled. And as of February 2012, participating universities have enrolled over 1,200 students and graduated nearly 600 postgraduate and masters-level health IT professionals, with over 1,700 expected to graduate by the summer of 2013.

Two other workforce training programs have resulted in the development of a health IT workforce curriculum and a health IT worker competency examination. The health IT workforce curriculum offers colleges and universities in all 50 states innovative health IT-teaching materials at no cost to instructors. And, since its release in May, 2011, over 2,000 individuals have taken the HIT Pro Exam, a competency examination designed to show employers that job-seekers have attained a proficient level of knowledge and skills in health IT.

Health IT can help keep information private and secure. In addition, federal laws require key persons and organizations that handle health information to have policies and security safeguards in place to protect health information—whether it is stored on paper or electronically. For more information on how health IT can lead to safer, better, and more efficient care, visit http://www.healthit.gov/

For more information about the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs, see http://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms

For more information about the HHS Recovery Act health IT programs see http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/announcements/by_topic.html#hit

Advertise your St. Patrick's Day Events in our 4 Newspapers, in Color. Call 312-624-8996

Explore Chicago this March with events that celebrate Irish Culture and Tradition

Visit Chicago this March for the St. Patrick's Day holiday Don your best green outfit, or a kilt if you dare, and embrace all Chicago has to offer for those Irish at heart during St. Patrick's Day. From lively parades and the green-dyed Chicago River to parties at hotels and pubs, Chicago visitors of all ages can "go green" all across town.It must be the luck of the Irish: "The dyeing of the river is a beloved tradition for many generations of Chicagoans. The parades and many other celebrations make Chicago a perfect getaway for a day trip or weekend stay."For help planning your trip and additional event and attraction details, visit the city of Chicago's official

Parades Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade, FREE Saturday, March 17, arrive early to get the best viewing spots as the Chicago River is colored with 45 lbs of environmentally-friendly green dye at 10:45 a.m. near Michigan Avenue and Wacker Drive. Then catch the colorful parade floats, musicians and dancers on Columbus Drive, beginning at Balbo Drive at 12 p.m. and ending at Monroe Drive. South Side Irish Parade

FREE Sunday, March 11 An old favorite returns to Chicago's South Side with a focus on family and Irish heritage. The Beverly neighborhood parade steps off at 11:30 a.m. on Western Avenue and runs from 103rd to 115th Street.

South Side Irish Family Fest March 9-11 Before the St. Patrick's Day weekend, bring your "wee folks" to the Beverly Arts Center to celebrate Irish culture while enjoying live entertainment, crafts, food and beverages.

Celebration at Navy Pier FREE Saturday, March 17 Join Navy Pier after the downtown parade for an exciting afternoon of Irish dance by Trinity Irish Dancers and live music by Anish from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Family Pavilion Stage.

Chicago Greeter, FREE Get the inside scoop on the City's rich Irish-American heritage from an enthusiastic, knowledgeable local during a free Chicago Greeter walk around the city. Eco-conscious travelers can explore the other side of "Green" Chicago with a visit to Chicago's green buildings and park space. Customized for small groups up to six people, these insightful two- to four-hour introductions can be reserved at chicagogreeter.com 7-10 days in advance.

Chicago Neighborhood Tours presents Bridgeport Saturday, March 31. The city's historically Irish-American Bridgeport neighborhood comes alive, revealing a rich history that sheds light on its working-class past. Chicago Neighborhood Tours are half-day motor coach trips that offer fully-planned itineraries and an expert local guide to lead the way. These affordable and convenient excursions depart from the Chicago Cultural Center at 10 a.m. and can be booked at chicagoneighborhood tours.com.

Green Grub and Irish Pubs Visitors staying in the Loop don't have to venture far two Irish-owned restaurants are sure to please St. Patrick's Day appetites: The Gage on South Michigan Avenue offers a contemporary American menu of Irish classics with a twist, while the Irish Oak features traditional St. Patrick's Day pub fare and great Irish brews on tap.

For daily alerts about things to do and see in Chicago, follow Explore Chicago on Twitter at twitter.com/explorechicago (COTC's free Twitter Concierge service @explorechicago) and on Facebook at facebook.com/explorechicago. Discover fun itineraries on the Explore Chicago blog at explorechicagotourism.com and on Foursquare at foursquare.comexplorechicago. Expert advice and information about the city's events and attractions are also available at the Chicago Office of Tourism and Culture's Visitor Information Centers located across from Millennium Park in the Chicago Cultural Center, 77 E. Randolph St., and the historic Water Works pumping station, 163 E. Pearson St. at Michigan Ave.

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Oak Lawn Pubic Library announces February March programming

Online Shopping and Couponing

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Avenue, is holding an Online Shopping and Couponing class on Thursday, Feb. 23 from 9-10:30 a.m. This class will cover online shopping and couponing for Internet purchases and provide tips for becoming an educated and savvy shopper. No advance registration; not a hands-on course.

Brunch Recipe Tasting

Registration for a Brunch recipe tasting hosted by the Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Avenue, will begin Saturday, Feb. 25. Join Chef Kate Bradley on Tuesday, March 13 at 7 p.m. for this review of recipes, featuring Mustard Encrusted Chicken, Vegetable Brunch Strata, Pecan Casserole, Stuffed French Toast and Baked Fruit.

Advance registration and payment of a $5 fee for food samples are required. Sign up at the library's Reception Booth. Limit 60 participants.

View a complete schedule of adult programs at www.oaklawnlibrary.org.

Kids "Read to Rover"

Children ages seven and up who would like to practice reading aloud are invited to participate in a "Read to Rover" event at the Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Avenue, on Saturday, Feb. 25. Advance in-person registration is required for readers to secure a 15-minute time slot between 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Registered therapy dogs from Rainbow Animal Assisted Therapy of Chicago will be on-hand to serve as attentive, non-judgmental one-on-one listeners at this free program.

Special needs children are also encouraged to participate.

"Five Famous African American Women"

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Avenue, presents "Five Famous African-American Women" on Monday, Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. Meet Phillis Wheatley, America's first black poet. Relive the Boston Massacre through the eyes of Crispus Attucks' wife. Join Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman on a look back at their lives. Rejoice with Gwendolyn Brooks, recipient of the Pulitzer Prize for poetry. Through story and song, Cynthia Maddox of Rose Productions will present this inspiring historical portrayal.

Registration for Youth Service Programs

Registration for Spring 2012 Youth Services programs at the Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Avenue, begins Saturday, March 3 and continues through Sunday, March 11 or until full. Each child's library card must be presented at the time of registration. Additional information regarding activities and events is listed in a program booklet that you may pick up at the library or view at www.oaklawnlibrary.org.

CUB Phone Bill Clinic

Registration begins Thursday, March 1 for the Oak Lawn Library's CUB Phone Bill Clinic to be held Thursday, March 22 at 2 p.m. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. Bring in your phone bill and a Citizens Utility Board (CUB) expert will meet with you one-on-one to explain any confusing charges and provide money-saving tips. Register by phone at (708) 422-4990 or in person at the Reception Booth. Limit: 50.

Friends of the Oak Lawn Library Trip: American Ballet Theatre presents "Giselle"

The Friends of the Oak Lawn Library will host a bus trip to "Giselle" at the American Ballet Theatre on Saturday, March 24. Registration is currently underway.

Enjoy a matinee performance of music, movement and drama in this quintessential romantic ballet epitomizing the transcendent power of love and forgiveness. This live American Ballet Theatre performance of "Giselle' will feature the Chicago Sinfonietta.

The bus will depart from the library at 12:30 p.m. and return at 5:30 p.m. The cost of the trip is $60 for Friends members and $65 for others. Members must present a current membership card or receipt to receive the $5 discount. Two ticket limit. Please be advised that this trip is not wheelchair accessible.

Muffins with Mommies

Children ages 3-8 and their mommies are invited to the Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Avenue, on Saturday, March 3 from 11-11:30 a.m. for stories, crafts and delicious muffins. Advance registration required. Call (708) 422-4990 or visit Youth Services.

New Interactive Timeline

The Local History Department at the Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Avenue, is proud to announce the unveiling of a new interactive timeline (http://www.capzles.com/#/33c0b0c7-a50d-4b27-aa46-e1a725da5094/)! Each segment covers a different person, event or era in Oak Lawn's history and contains photos as well as several video clips. New content will be updated on a regular basis.

Tax Talk

Richard Laskowski of H&R Block in Oak Lawn will present "Tax Talk" at the Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Avenue, on Thursday, March 1 at 7 p.m.

Participants will learn about comprehensive tax knowledge on family issues, retirement considerations, property owner concerns, and today's current events and laws – all in time to file your tax return.

View a complete listing of adult programs atwww.oaklawnlibrary.org.

For additional information, call (708) 422-4990.

A Message from Playwright Motti Lerner

"Most of *Paulus'* plot takes place in the small kingdom of Judea in the first century, yet Paul's separation of Christianity from Judaism resonates throughout the world to this day. *Paulus* concerns all religions that offer believers a hope for a Messiah and a belief in Redemption. It is not a coincidence that **Silk Road Rising is the first theatre in the world to explore this play in a workshop.**

The ideas that the play struggles with are shared by many of the artists working on it.I am very grateful for this opportunity to collaborate with Jamil and Malik and with director Daniella Topol.

I'm excited to share my draft of *Paulus* with the Chicago audience and look forward to a dialogue with them. I'm sure it will be a great adventure for all of us!"

13th Annual Chicago Irish Film Festival Set for March 2-7

The 13th Annual Chicago Irish Film Festival (CIFF) will present a stellar program of films, special guests and special events Friday, Mar. 2 through Wednesday, Mar. 7 at the Beverly Arts Center, 2407 W. 111th St. (111th Street south on Western Avenue), Chicago.

New this year is The Consulate of Ireland Award which will be presented to the short film that best celebrates the Irish culture and presented by Aidan Cronin, Consul General of Ireland, at the Festival closing night program of shorts.

The festival opens on Friday, March 2, 7 p.m., with a gala reception celebrating the US Premier of "The Road to Moneygall," a fascinating and disarming chronicle of three years in the life Henry Healy, long lost cousin of Barack Obama, and his efforts to bring the President to Moneygall, Co. Offaly, birthplace of Obama's great-great-great-great-great grandfather. Director Ed Godsell will attend the opening and 8 p.m. screening, and be available for questions and conversation.

On Saturday afternoon, March 3, the festival focus is documentaries but the films are as unique as they are enthralling. "Ballymun Lullaby," an inspiring documentary about the Ballymun Music Programme that offers free music lessons to students in one of Dublin's most impoverished communities, will be screened at 2 p.m.

At 4 p.m. the film "Bram Stoker agns Dracnla" will examine Bram Stoker's remarkable life and the influence his Irish background had on the creation of his most famous and apparently immortal character, Dracula.

The film, done in both Irish language and English, is directed by Keith O'Grady a founding member of Dearcán Media, an Irish language production company based in Derry in the north of Ireland.

Rock music fans will be tuning in on Saturday at 6 p.m. for the US Premier of "Hot Press: The Write Stuff ," n documentary about the early years of the iconic Dublin-based rock music magazine Hot Press.

"Behold the Lamb," the award-winning first feature film by director John McIlduff, will he have its Midwest Premier at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, March 3. A gritty mix of comedy and tragedy, the film follows a couple of connivers — tough junkie Liz (Aoife Duffin, 2012 IFTA best actress nominee) and middle-aged loser Eddie (Nigel O'Neill) — as they travel across the Northern Irish countryside to make an unexpected score.

Classic Irish Cinema fills the bill on Sunday, March 4, beginning with the documentary "Blazing the Trail: The O'Kalems in Ireland " at 2 p.m. Director Peter Flynn, who will attend the screening, offers a fascinating look back at the early 1910s when the New York based Kalem Film Company sent its leading filmmakers to County Kerry to make movies.

This documentary tells the story of the filmmakers' adventures in Ireland , how they made films without electricity, using locals as actors, and provoking both the priests and the British authorities. Screening with this documentary are two silent shorts from the Irish Film Archives.

At 4 p.m. Sunday, the Festival will screen the 1922 classic Irish cinema silent "Come On Over," a romantic comedy in which Colleen Moore stars as a spunky immigrant who travels to New York to meet her husband in a busy boarding house.

This film was acquired for screening with the support of the Irish Film Institute (Dublin) and the Film Preservation Center of the Museum of Modern Art (New York).

Dennis Scott of the Chicago Silent Film Society and organist for the Music Box Theater will play the organ during the film.

The festival audience will be taken on a whirlwind adventure Monday, March 5 with the 7:30 p.m. screening of "A Kiss for Jed Wood." A "dramedy" with an eclectic soundtrack, the film follows a wild Irish 19-year-old TV game show contestant whose task is to get a kiss from country superstar Jed Wood (Neal Bleadsoe).

A has-been cameraman and disreputable soundman are sent along to document the wildly unsuccessful quest.

Irish history and politics take over the screen on Tuesday, March 6, 7:30 p.m. for Leila Doolan's remarkable documentary "Bernadette: Notes On A Political Journey."

Using live interviews and archival footage, the film tells the story of 1960s political activist Bernadette Devlin and her explosive, unrelenting fight for civil rights, feminism and socialism in Northern Ireland. Director Leila Doolan will fly to the CIFF straight from a screening of this film in Beirut to participate in a Q&A.

Closing night, Wednesday, March 7, 7:30 p.m. , will feature a 90 minute of program of shorts revealing the creativity, humor, insight and culture of the Irish through the lens of Ireland 's talented filmmakers.

Films include animations, documentaries, comedies and even a heart-stopping horror film by directors that include Chicago Irish Film Festival favorites Damian McCarthy, David Quin and Thomas Hefferon, as well as talented newcomers Sophie Merry and Don Field who will be attending the screening and closing reception. The screening is followed by the festival closing reception.

Chicago Irish Film Festival passes are $65 and include all screenings and opening and closing receptions. Individual screenings are $10.

Admission to the opening reception and screening is $30 and to the closing night screening and reception is $20.

More information and festival schedule can be found www.chicagoirishfilmfestival.com.

Tickets can be purchased at www.beverlyartcenter.org or by calling 773-445-3838.

Spyropoulos addresses Josephine & John's Place Seniors

Commissioner Mariyana Spyropoulos, of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, will speak before the Josephine & John's Place Seniors, Wednesday, February 29 at 12:15 p.m. at Maple Park United Methodist Church , 1225 W. 117th Street .

Vivian Lewis, coordinator, said the commissioner will talk about the proper disposal of pharmaceuticals.

Commission Mariyana Spyropoulos received her Law Degree from John Marshall Law School and her MBA from Loyola University , Chicago . She was appointed by Governor Quinn to the opening on the Board of Commissioners of the MWRD.

She is a member of the Chicago Bar Association, Illinois Bar Association, Women's Bar Association, The Sierra Club, Illinois League of Conservation Voters and the National Affairs Chair for the Independent Voters of Illinois. Mariyana was a researcher for Nomura Research Institute in London , England .

Lt. Martin to address Trinity Lutheran Fellowship Seniors

Lieutenant Anthony R. Martin of the Chicago Fire Department will address the Trinity Lutheran Fellowship Seniors, Thursday, March 1 at 1 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 9701 S. Brandt Avenue , Oak Lawn.

Fern Hardt, coordinator, announced that Lt. Martin will enlighten the group on fire safety. Lt. Martin has been a Chicago Firefighter for over 23 years.

He has demonstrated a commitment to serving our community. As President and Co-Founder of the Ende, Menzer, Walsh, Quinn Retirees, Widows and Children's Assistance Fund, Anthony has assisted in the distribution of approximately $4.9 million over the past eight years to 471 widows living at, or near the poverty level, and to all children who have lost a parent who was an active member of the fire department.

Anthony holds a B.A. Degree in Political Science from Saint Xavier, where he was Student Government President. He is presently in his final year at John Marshall Law School.

Acorn Public Library in Oak Forest announces March Program

Below is a listing of programs offered by Acorn Public Library for children, teens and families. The library is located at 15624 Central Ave. Oak Forest, IL 60452. The library's phone number is 708-687-3700, and is also located at www.acornlibrary.org.

March 2012 Programs Registration is required for all programs, unless otherwise noted, ending when full. If for any reason you cannot attend a program for which you are registered, please call the library to cancel, allowing a child on the waiting list to attend. Thank you!

Wolves Player Visit-Meet Stefan Schneider! Thursday, March 8 at 4:30 PM. All Ages Come meet professional Chicago Wolves Hockey Player, Stefan Schneider! Learn all about what it is like to be a professional athlete. Allages. Please register at the Youth Services Desk starting February 23.

Young Adult Book Discusslon Group Fri. March 9 at 3:30 PM Grades 6 and Up This month's selection is The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie. Copies of the book are available at the Youth Services Desk.

Family Story Time Sat. March 10 at 10:30 AM Up to Age 7 Start off your weekend with fun stories, songs and a craft! Registration begins two weeks prior , ending when full.

After School Craft Tues. March 13 at 4 PM Ages 6 and Up Come to the library to make a fun craft after school! Registration begins Jan. 31, ending when full.

Bedtime Story Time Wed. March 14 at 7 PM Up to Age 7 Wear your PJ's for a fun night of stories, songs and a craft! Registration begins two weeks prior , ending when full.

Acorn Teen Corp. Thurs. March 15 at 7 PM Grades 6 and Up Join a group of teens who are interested in volunteering and having fun!

Life-Sized Candy Land Game Sat. March 17 at 10:30 AM Ages 4-7. Love to play Candy Land? Come to our life-sized Candy Land Game! Registration begins March 3, ending when full. Sign up at the Youth Services Desk.

Story Time Fun Tues. March 20 at 6:30PM All Ages Join us for stories and snacks! Register at the Youth Services Desk starting March 6, ending when full.

LEGO Club Sat. March 24 at 10:30 AM Ages 6 and Up Join our LEGO club! Each meeting will have a different theme to create. Registration begins March 10, ending when full.

Family Game Night Tues. March 27 at 7 PM All Ages, we'll be getting together for a night of family fun! Activities may include favorites like bingo, checkers and board games. Registration begins March 13, ending when full.

Dr. Seuss' The Lora Party Fri. March 30 at 2:30 PM Grades 1-4 Watch the movie, discuss the ideas, enjoy a snack, make some crafts, have fun! Registration starts March 16, ending when full.

Smith Village holds support group sessions

2 Smith CCRCs to advise caregivers coping with family members who have Alzheimer's and dementia Smith Crossing and Smith Village hold free support groups in March Southwestern Chicago and suburban families and caregivers of seniors living with Alzheimer's disease or dementia can find out how to cope with a loved one or friend who exhibits uncharacteristic behavior.

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 1, the admissions director, social service director and resident services director of Smith Crossing at 10501 Emilie Lane in Orland Park will present a program on how to deal with challenging behaviors.

They will discuss such behaviors as sleep disturbances, physical or verbal outbursts, emotional distress, restlessness, pacing, yelling, delusions and hallucinations.

The next Tuesday, March 6, Smith Village at 2320 W. 113th Place in Chicago's Beverly neighborhood will have a program at 6:30 p.m. centering on a daughter's insight into Alzheimer's disease. Moderated by memory support coordinator Diane Morgan, the session will begin with a movie, "Complaints of a Dutiful Daughter."

The free hour-long gatherings at both continuing care retirement communities are open to the public and families of Smith residents. A discussion, Q&A period and light refreshments will conclude each meeting.

To reserve a place March 1 at Smith Crossing, please call 708-326-2300. To reserve a seat at Smith Village on March 6, please call 773-474-7300. About Smith Senior Living Smith Village and Smith Crossing are part of the Smith Senior Living family of premier senior living communities in the Southwest sector of metropolitan Chicago.

An innovative leader in providing the finest services and care for seniors, Smith established its first community in 1924, on Chicago's Beverly neighborhood on the same city block where Smith Village stands today.

Smith Village and Smith Crossing, located in Orland Park, feature spacious indepen-dent living residences, as well as apartments for residents needing assisted living or memory support services. Both campuses provide a comprehensive program of services and amenities, including a generous healthcare program for residents' future needs if they should arise. In addition, skilled nursing care and rehabilitation services and accommodations are available on each campus.

Smith Village also offers respite care. Both campuses are highly regarded continuing care retirement communities that make it possible for seniors to enjoy a vibrant, active life-style while relying on the support and healthcare services they need.

For more information about how Smith Senior Living retirement communities, call Smith Crossing in Orland Park at 708-326-2300 or visit SmithCrossing.org.

For Smith Village in Chicago, call 773-474-7300 or visit SmithVillage.org

Pictured from the left is Judge Casciato, Ed McElroy and Lt. Anthony Martin.

Watch Community Focus for people you should know

Ed McElroy, host of "Community In Focus" recently interviewed Judge Joseph Casciato and Lt. Anthony R. Martin of the Chicago Fire Department.

The show airs on Friday, February 24th at 5 p.m. and again at noon on Sunday, February 26th on Senior Network Can TV, Channel 19.

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The Blue Island Park District presents
beginning and advanc
Yoga classes held Monday nights at the Blue Island Park District
Next Yoga Session: March 5 - April 16 (7wks)
Price: $49/Residents $63/Non-Residents
Beginning: 6:00pm - 7:30pm Continuing: 7:45pm-9:15pm
12804 S. Highland Ave. Blue Island, IL
708 - 385-3304 • www.blueislandparks.org

Mature job seekers can learn tips at Moraine Valley's speaker event

As part of Moraine Valley Community College's Career Paths and Coffee adult information sessions, a speaker series will begin with "Tips for the Mature Job Seeker."

This free event is Saturday, March 10, 8:30-11 a.m., in Building M on campus, 9000 W. College Pkwy in Palos Hills.

Siggy Letheby, regional recruitment coordinator for the Department of Labor, is the guest speaker and will discuss how adults can increase their value in the job market and what makes potential employees marketable.

Sign-in begins at 8:30 a.m. with refreshments before the presentation begins at 9 a.m. There also will be time for questions. Career Paths and Coffee sessions are hour-long gatherings each month on all three of Moraine Valley's campuses and at district libraries that provide information for adults interested in learning about programs and resources at Moraine Valley in a relaxed setting.

The next session on the main campus in Building S, Room S117A, is Wednesday, March 7 at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

For more information, contact Deb Wills at (708) 974-5759, email Willsd6@morainevalley.edu or visit morainevalley.edu/adultsuccess for a complete list of the monthly sessions.

Pictured are (left to right): Deacon Matt O'Donnell (a 2004 graduate of St. Laurence High School), junior Luis Avila (Cicero), junior Luke Miller (Orland Park), and Fr. Mike Scherschel (Assistant Archdiocesan Vocation Director).

Vocation Week at St. Laurence High School

Vocation week was recently held at St. Laurence High School, the place "Where Leadership Begins." The students heard stories and received information from various priests, brothers, and lay missioners. Each guest shared his life story and how he came to recognize God's special calling in his own life. Students received many perspectives on what it means to be a priest, a brother, or lay missionary, and how to discern that unique calling. "We hope that the presentations that the students attended were both meaningful and helpful," said Brother Tim Smyth, Campus Minister for the school. "We want each student to realize that he has a calling from God, and some of them to one of these religious vocations."

Veterans Funeral Care Receives Endorsement from the American Legion Department of Illinois

Specialized funeral benefits honor retired veterans and their families for service to their country

The American Legion Department of Illinois is the most recent organization to endorse Veteran's Funeral Care (VFC) as a valuable benefit for retired veterans and their families. VFC serves to provide veterans with funeral benefits deserving of their patriotic service. There are currently 10 funeral homes certified to offer these benefits in Illinois , and others in bordering states that serve Illinois counties.

"Our veterans have earned a very special honor for their service to our country, and that honor should be carried out to their final resting place," VFC President Jim Rudolph said. "Funeral homes that are certified to offer Veterans Funeral Care services work to compassionately and respectfully assist families of deceased veterans and we are pleased the American Legion Department of Illinois has recognized the benefits of all that VFC has to offer."

The endorsement in Illinois comes shortly after the Indiana American Legion announced their support for the program. The Illinois office serves more than 105,000 members in over 800 local Posts.

"The American Legion serves as a support organization for the men and women and their families who have served our country as part of the armed forces. Since 1920, our members have served in at least one or more of a dozen wars around the world. We are happy to support services like Veterans Funeral Care that are created to give back to and honor our veterans," American Legion Illinois Adjutant Terry Woodbum said.

Eligible veterans, their spouses and dependent children are entitled to free grave space, outer burial container, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care and cemetery marker or headstone at a National Cemetery . VFC providers ensure veterans are aware of what programs are available to them and assist them to develop a plan for the future.

Veterans Funeral Care services will typically save a family 40 percent of the cost of using a traditional funeral service. The provider network is made up of licensed funeral directors, many of them veterans themselves.

"We take great pride in providing services to our Veterans and their families. Our staff takes care of every one of our Veterans and their families with the respect and dignity they have eamed," said Sharon Vaughn, of Concord Family Services.

Current Veterans Funeral Care Providers located in Illinois and Illinois service areas include:

Moran & Goebel - Decatur , IL
Mason Funeral Home – Washington , IL
Hinchliff-Pearson-West, Inc. - Galesburg , IL
Trimble Funeral Home - Moline and Coal Valley IL
Walker Mortuary – Freeport , IL
Davenport Family Funeral Home - Barrington , IL
Concord Family Services - Chicago , IL
Carlson-Holmquist-Sayles Funeral Home - Joliet , IL
St. Louis Cremation - St. Louis , MO

If there is not a VFC provider in the immediate area, Veterans Funeral Care staff will work with local funeral homes to service the needs of Veterans. For more information on Veterans Funeral Care services and providers, visit http://www.veteransfuneralcare.com

About the American Legion, Illinois

Chartered by Congress in 1919, The American Legion was founded as a patriotic, mutual-help, war-time Veterans organization. We are a community-service organization which now numbers over 105,000 members in Illinois , in over 800 local Posts. These Posts are organized into Divisions, Districts and Counties. Each Division, District and County has officers who provide leadership in their respective areas. Each year the American Legion conducts numerous programs of interest and benefit to veterans, their families and communities such as Premier Boys State , Youth Police School , American Legion Baseball, High School Oratorical Contests, Boy Scouts, Blood Donor Donations, and Child Safety.

About Veteran Funeral Care

Veterans Funeral Care (VFC) is the first full service funeral home in America built to serve the veteran and military community. The staff is trained and licensed to assist with every detail of making cremation and funeral arrangements from applying for all available Veterans' benefits and social security benefits to applying for life insurance and arranging military honors. VFC works with all providers to ensure veterans are taken care of as their arrangements are made for the future.

Tuta Theatre Chicago opens their 10th Anniversary Season

TUTA Theatre Chicago celebrates its tenth anniversary season with Fulton Street Sessions, a world premiere cabaret-style production, developed and written by the TUTA ensemble and directed by Artistic Director Zeljko Djukic (Adding Machine). Fulton Street Sessions runs Thurs. thru Sat. at 8 p.m. and Sun. at 3 p.m from Feb. 23 thru March 25, 2012, at Chicago Dramatists, 1105 W. Chicago Ave. Preview performances are Tues., Feb. 21 and Wed., Feb. 22 at 8 p.m.

Tickets are $15 for previews and $30 for the regular performances.There is a $25 senior citizen and student ticket available forall performances at the door one hour before show time or online at www.tutato.com, based on availability. Industry tickets are $12 and are available every Thurs. and Sun. performance at the door. Group discounts are also available. A special gala performance and reception is being held Thursday, Feb. 23; all tickets for this event are $40. To purchase tickets to Fulton Street Sessions call 847.217.0691 or www.tutato.com

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Titania (Tracy Michelle Arnold professes her love to the magically transformed Bottom (Ron Orbach) in CST Associate Artistic Director Gary Griffin's production of William Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream, now playing at Chicago Shakespeare Theater through April 8th. Photo by Liz Lauren.

Chicago Shakespeare Theater presents A Midsummer Night's Dream

by John Boss

Chicago Shakespeare Theater's 25th Anniversary Season production of William Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream, directed by CST Associate Artistic Director Gary Griffin is now playing through April 8, 2012, and features a celebratcd company of artists that includes stage and screen actor Ron Orbach as Nick Bottom, former Saturday Night Live funnyman Tim Kazurinsky as Peter Quince, and veteran CST actors Tracy Michelle Arnold as Hippolyta/Titania and Timothy Edward Kane as Theseus/Oberon. Performing the role of Puck is Elizabeth Ledo.

Chicago Shakespeare Theater's A Midsummer Night's Dream runs now through April 8, 2012 in CST's Courtyard Theater. Tickets are on sale now for $44-$75 with special discounts available for groups of 10 or more. All patrons receive 40% discount on guaranteed parking in Navy Pier garages. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact CST Box Office at 312-595-5600 or visit the Theater's website at www.chicagoshakes.com/dream.

This reinventcd staging of the bard's classic is a veritable feast for the senses. Gary Griffin has created a new bard breathing new life into this often long winded classic. From the moment the show begins right down to the opening announcement which is done on an old fashioned phonograph you know you are in for a treat. The scenic design by Daniel Ostling is a virtual tapestry which envelopes the action. Costume designer Mara Blumenfeld has designed a beautiful 1920's wardrobe in purple and gray tones which fits with the overall design of the show and introduces fantastical head pieces using brighter colors when thc action moves into the fantasy where the fairies create their magic.

For thc final scene beautiful textures accent a cast in pure white. The lighting dcsign by Phillip S Rosenberg and Projection Design by Mike Tutaj work together in complete synergy. Their elements create the environments within the story, almost as a symphony of orchestration using vivid colors and lights never distracting but enhancing the action of the play. Another delightful elcment in this production is very strong vocal harmonies and use of folk instruments which accompany the bard's often difficult verse. Kudos to composers and Sound Designers Rob Milburn and Michael Bodeen. Very specific sound cucs were incorporated into thc scenes to create the impact needed for the arrival and departure of the actors, as well as the casting of the spells. The often use of physical comedy in fights and the logistics of costume removal were deftly handled by choreographer Matt Raftery and Fight Director David Woolley.

Ron Orbach's Nick Bottom was a comic delight much like a Jackie Gleeson or Pseudolous from "Forum", The two sets of star crossed lovers played by Christina Nieves as Hermia and Andy Truschinski as Lysander in addition to Laura Huizenga as Helena and Matt Schwader as Demetrius were well cast, high spirited and attractive.

Timothy Edward Kane's Oberon was a shirtless sexy dry humored flirt with spot on delivery, often winking to show his glee, while Tracy Michelle Arnold was a perfect match with strong vocal chops and a sexy presence which was a delight to watch. The Mechanicals and their fairy counterparts created some wonderful comic moments and excellent vocals often using their falsettos to create female roles. Elizabeth Ledo's Puck, although under the weather or vocally exhausted stole the show with her unending encrgy and youthful spirit.

The staging was often a giant chess game of bodies and props to contend with, but she shined through. Her transformation into Puck and theatrical staging which accompanied her is true magic to behold. The final 25 minutes of the play when the workmen are presenting their show to the royalty is the bard at its humorous best. This Midsummer is one who will make you appreciate Shakespeare all over again.

Auditions are being held by the Palos Village Players

The Palos Village Players will hold auditions for their spring play, the Mary Chase comedy COCKTAILS WITH MIMI at 7:00 PM on February 26 and 8:00 PM on February 27 at All Saints Lutheran Church, 13550 S. LaGrange Road,

Please enter from the rear parking lot. The play tells the story of a wealthy mother who plans a party to honor her daughter's future in-laws. Because she considers them a pair of stuffed-shirts, she plans a stunt to embarrass them. At the same time the daughter, who knows her mother would not like them, hires two actors to replace them. All goes well until the real in-laws show up. What follows is a hilarious series of mistaken identities and farcical confusion.

The cast calls for 6 men and 5 women and will require readings from the script. Previous acting experience is not required but it will be helpful. The director is Julie Zebleckis and the performance dates are May 4-12. The play will be staged at the Palos Park Recreation Center, 8901 W. 123rd St.

Joffrey Ballet presents Winter Fire

Three of the hottest choreographers premiered Winter Fire, Wayne McGregor, William Forsythe, Christopher Wheeldon at the Auditorium Theatre. The Joffrey Ballet brings to Chicago the work of three world renowned choreographers in Winter Fire, a mixed repertory program featuring two premieres and an audience favorite, After the Rain.

Winter Fire is presented in ten performances only at the Auditorium Theatre at Roosevelt University, until February 26.

The classic style of Wheeldon's After the Rain was performed exceptional well by Victoria Jaiani and Fabrice Calmels. It was the forms and versatility that made their movements so graceful and warm. The pleasure of watching Fabrice, for the past five years grow into a world renown dancer, indicated he has studied diligently under the direction of today's most innovative contemporary ballet choreographer, Christopher Wheeldon.

The following schedule and ticket information may be helpful. There are single tickets available for Thursday February 23 at 7:30 and the weekend. Prices start at $25 to $149 and there are matinee tickets available at 2:00 on Saturday and Sunday. The Joffrey Ballet is grateful for the 2011-2012 Season Sponsors and Partners and all their patrons.

Rodgers and Hammerstein's South Pacific limited engagement

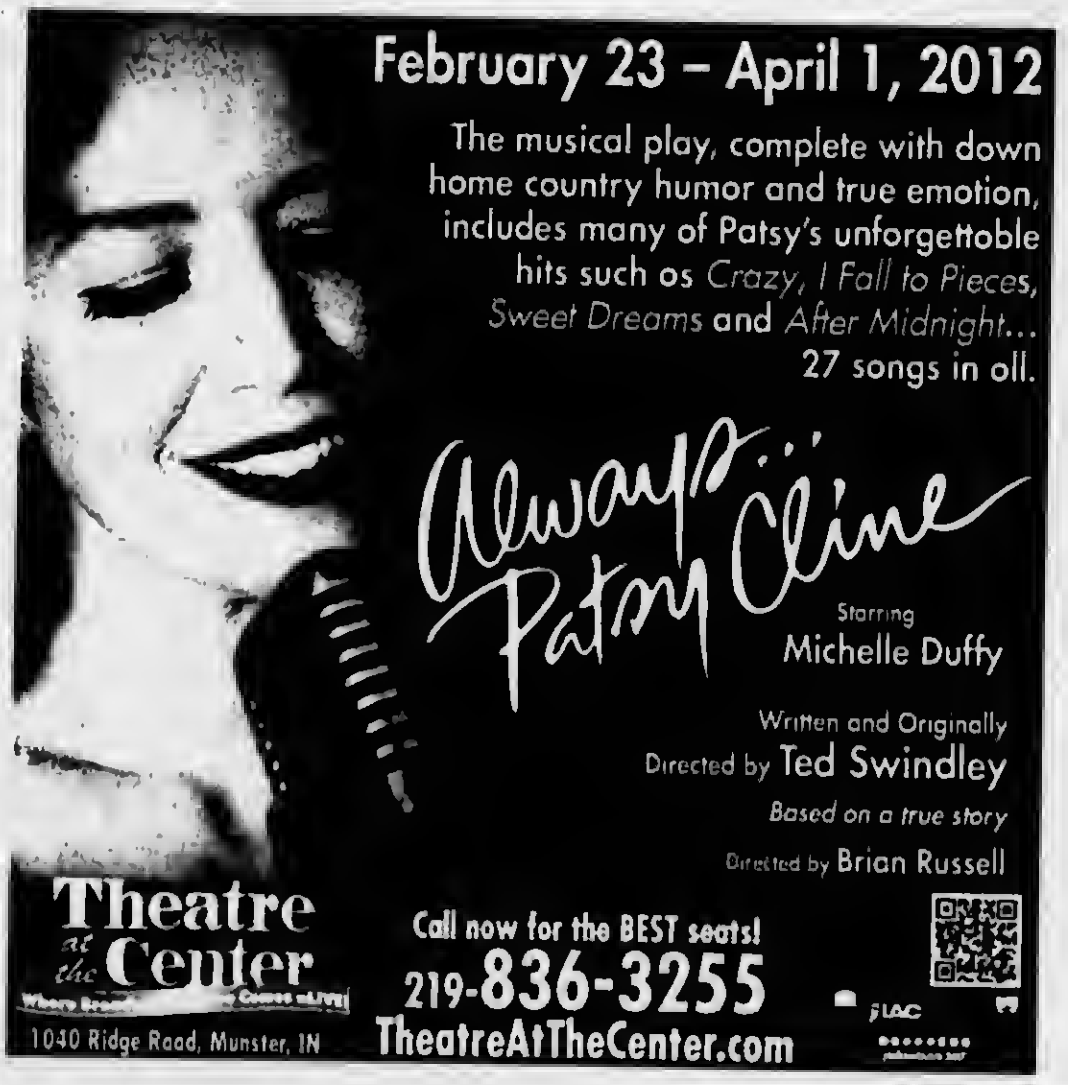
The Cadillac Palace Theatre opened with Broadway in Chicago and NETworks Presentation of a new production of South Pacific.

This limited engagement is for two weeks only, ending on February 26.

The new Nellie Forbush is Jennie Sophia, a Chicago Native with a vast experience in musical theater. She is an outstanding fresh understudy who took command of the stage in acting and singing the major part of Nellie. Her abilities are numerous, the week part was the sequence of the shower and the song, "I'm going to wash that man right out of my hair," but surely Jennie captured the hearts of both men and women.

The prices are right! Tickets range from $18 to $85 and can be purchased at all Broadway in Chicago Box offices and the Broadway in Chicago Ticket Line at 800-775-2000.

Included also for ticket sales are Ticketmaster and many retail locations or visit online at www.BroadwayinChicago.com



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Are You Following The Doctor's Orders?

Taking Your Medicine As Prescribed Is Key To Healthy Bones

(NAPSA)-From a very young age, we are taught to "follow the doctor's orders." Doctors can help guide us to the best way to take care of ourselves. But a recent survey suggests that many people may be ignoring this age-old advice.

The new survey showed that three out of four Americans do not always take their prescription medicine as directed by their doctor. Nearly half of those polled said they do not stay on their medicine. For some people, it's simply a case of forgetting to take it. Other people say they just stopped taking it before the supply ran out, took less than the recommended amount or didn't go to the pharmacy at all to fill the prescription in the first place.

This trend could be a problem for the millions of people facing chronic diseases, including the nearly 44 million Americans age 50 or older who are threatened by osteoporosis, including postmenopausal osteoporosis. Osteoporosis is a disease that causes bones to become brittle and more likely to break.

"People need to remember that medications do not work if we don't take them as prescribed," said Barbara Dehn, nurse practitioner at the Women Physicians Ob/Gyn Medical Group, Mt. View, California. "For women with postmenopausal osteoporosis, this is very important because prescription medicine can help make bones stronger and may reduce the chance of a fracture."

Women age 50 or older who don't treat osteoporosis can lose bone mass. This means that their bones get thinner and they are more likely to experience a fracture. Up to one in two women age 50 or older with untreated osteoporosis may experience a bone fracture.

"If you have been diagnosed with osteoporosis, then talk to your doctor about treatment options such as once-monthly Boniva. This is a prescription medicine used to treat and help prevent osteoporosis in women after menopause. Boniva helps increase bone mass and helps reduce the chance of having a spinal fracture [break]. It is not known how long Boniva works for the treatment and prevention of osteoporosis and you should see your doctor regularly to determine if Boniva is still right for you," Dehn said. "Remember to take your medication as your doctor prescribed so your treatment has the best chance at helping to prevent bone loss."

Here are some helpful tips to help you stay on track with your bone health treatment plan:

Tip 1: Ask your doctor about your medicine: It is important to understand how to take your medication properly. Prepare questions to ask your doctor about your medication-such as when you need to take it, how often or if you should eat beforehand-and how it might affect you.

Tip 2: Find out about free programs that provide support: Ask your doctor for tools such as brochures and videos that can help you learn more about postmenopausal osteoporosis and treatment. Programs like MyBONIVA _can also help you make the most of your prescription _treatment plan. The program includes a welcome kit, quarterly newsletters with helpful tips on _leading a healthy and active life, and monthly e-mail reminders to help you remember _to take your medication. Visit www.MyBoniva.com for more _information.

Tip 3: Make a standing "date" on your treatment day: Make a special appointment with a close friend or organize a _different fun activity for each day that you have to take your _prescription treatment. Involving a friend or family member in your routine can help remind you to stick to it.

Tip 4: Create a plan that works for you: You can use a combination of any or all of these tips to help you stick with your treatment plan. You should see your doctor regularly to determine if Boniva is still right for you.

Please see below for Important Safety Information. Indication: BONIVA is a prescription medicine used to treat or prevent osteoporosis in women after menopause. BONIVA helps increase bone mass and helps reduce the chance of having a spinal fracture (break).

It is not known how long BONIVA works for the treatment and prevention of osteoporosis. You should see your doctor regularly to determine if BONIVA is still right for you.

Important Safety Information

You should not take BONIVA if you have certain problems with your esophagus (the tube that connects your mouth and stomach), low blood calcium, cannot sit or stand for at least 60 minutes, or are allergic to BONIVA or any of its ingredients.

BONIVA can cause serious side effects including problems with the esophagus; low blood calcium; bone, joint or muscle pain; severe jaw- bone problems; and unusual thighbone fractures.

Before starting BONIVA, tell your doctor if you have problems with swallowing, stomach or digestive problems, have low blood calcium, plan to have dental surgery or teeth removed or have kidney problems.

Stop taking BONIVA and tell your doctor right away if you have pain or trouble swallowing, chest pain, or severe or continuing heartburn, as these may be signs of serious upper digestive problems. Call your doctor immediately if jaw problems, hip, groin or thigh pain develops, or if you have symptoms of low blood calcium such as spasms, twitching, cramps in your muscles, or numbness or tingling in your fingers, toes or around your mouth.

Follow the dosing instructions for once-monthly BONIVA carefully.

The most common side effects are back pain, heartburn, stomach area pain, pain in your arms and legs, diarrhea, headache, muscle pain and flulike symptoms.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA at www.fda.gov/medwatch or by calling 1-800-FDA-1088.

Talk to your doctor for more information or if you have questions about your treatment.

Please see full Prescribing Information and Medication Guide for additional important safety information.

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Some Long-term Care Insurance Is Better Than None

(NAPSA)-In today's challenging economy, long-term care insurance can easily get put on the back burner, yet the state of the economy also means it's more crucial than ever to protect your assets.

When compared to the cost of paying for long-term care services from a home health aide, nursing home or assisted living facility, the cost of insurance can seem more affordable.

"Even if you can't afford a policy with all the bells and whistles -and there can be many to choose from-you should understand that having some long-term care coverage is better than _having none at all," said Mary Swanson, product performance director at Mutual of Omaha. "Medicare does not cover long-term care services and Medicaid only offers coverage once your assets are depleted. Long-term care insurance can help protect retirement savings while offering you more choice in the type of care you receive." She offers some advice that can help keep long-term care insurance costs under control:

• Sign up early. The younger you are when you get long-term care insurance, the lower your rate will be.

• Limit your coverage amount. You can find savings by decreasing your monthly benefit amount or length of coverage. Determine how much you really need to protect. A three-year benefit period is significantly less expensive than lifetime coverage. See if there are other assets that can be used to fund a portion of the long-term care expenses if you do need a long period of care.

• Increase the elimination period. If you select a 90-day elimination period (the waiting period before coverage kicks in) over a zero-day period, you can save a significant amount on premiums. Set aside savings that can be used to cover your costs during that initial period.

• Inflation protection. Choosing a product with a smaller _percent increase for inflation can save money and still provide _adequate coverage. Another approach is to purchase coverage with no inflation protection to ensure a specified amount of your assets are protected.

• Allowances. It's common for companies to offer a variety of preferred rates and allowances for good health to married couples and to members of certain associations.

For further information, visit www.mutualofomaha.com.

Some insurance companies offer a variety of long-term care options that let you tailor a policy to meet your anticipated needs and fit your budget.

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SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 38 | Number 17 | March 6, 2012

Burbank, Evergreen Park, Hickory Hills, Justice, Oak Lawn

Wendy's in Hickory Hills will close

by Jan Glaz

Mayor Howley announced at the Hickory Hills City Council meeting on February 23rd that Wendy's Restaurant will close for up to six weeks for extensive remodeling. He informed the council that the restaurant had submitted a request to keep their drive-thru open for as long as possible during construction. The Mayor commented, "I can't imagine that we would be opposed to it." The Mayor then disclosed he had seen photos of the proposed project and said, "It's going to be a beautiful building."

City Engineer T. Lang's report described the ongoing process of obtaining a school grant in the amount of $250,000.00 for a sidewalk project along Roberts and 88th Avenue. Mr. Lang informed the board that meetings are required to discuss time lines, the scope of the project, etc. He also said, "Because its federal dollars there are a number of environmental steps that have to go through before the design we to submit to them; they review to see if there are contaminated sites, wetlands or endangered birds or insects to the area. It's... it's crazy is what it is, but it's a necessary step because of the federal requirements." Lang said they are targeting April 2013 for the sidewalks and that $250,000 will cover the construction, most of the engineering costs and if they're lucky they also might be able to cover all the design. The city will only be out a couple of thousand dollars on the front end.

Public Works Director L. Boetteher conducted a public hearing in regards to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit program. The purpose of the hearing was to receive input and to instruct the city program to keep the storm water clean and pass clean storm water to towns in lower elevations. In compliance, the city has implemented the control measures recommended by the federal and state agencies. The education of the program has been met by publishing articles, city newsletters and distributing pamphlets.

At the close of the meeting, a letter was read stating that Cook County and the State of Illinois will continue to conduct the radon alert program by distributing radon detector kits which can be ordered for the cost of $7.00: The public can call the Cook County Department of Environmental Control at (708) 865-6177, the village website will also post radon information. Mayor Mike Howley made an announcement concerning the importance of Radon Detection, "Other than smoking it's the second most frequent form of lung cancer, people breathing in radon in their basement."

Justice Police receive awards

by Jan Glaz

Police Chief Robert Gedville proudly presented four 2011 Justice Police Department awards at the opening of the Village of Justice President and Board of Trustees second regular meeting, held on February 27th. Police Chief Gedville began the ceremony by announcing that the honors are presented to men who go above and beyond, by self-initiated arrests and activities that keep the community safer.

The first award, the Narcotics Enforcement Award, was presented to Corporal Michael McNamara, a nine year veteran of the Justice Police Department. McNamara formerly served as a canine officer for approximately five years and has won the Police Department award on four consecutive occasions. In 2011 he filed over twenty (20) self-initiated narcotics arrests.

The second award was the DUI Enforcement Award presented to Sergeant Mark Krummick, a fourteen year veteran, a former Corporal in the Justice Police Department; Krummick has won the DUI award consecutively for six years. In 2011 he made twenty-seven (27) Dui arrests and on a prior occasion was Officer of the Year.

"Next up is probably the most hated officer in town, which is the traffic enforcement officer," Police Chief Gedville jested, as he honored this year's number one ticket-writer. The Traffic Enforcement Award was presented to Officer William Conrad, a five year veteran with the Justice Police Department; Officer Conrad wrote over 2,000 citations in 2011.

The final award to be presented was the prestigious Officer of the Year Award. The award is based on an officer's overall activity, overall experience and capabilities. Corporal Ryan Zima received the award, he is a nine year veteran and in 2011 he made over 200 arrests, the majority of which were self-initiated. Police Chief Gedville further praised Corporal Zima saying, "His achievements were spectacular he averaged more than two arrests a day."

VISA WAIVER PROGRAM (VWP): After the award presentations and before the meeting adjourned President and Mayor of Justice, Krzysztof Wasowiez, nobly brought forth a motion that was unanimously approved: The Resolution of the Village of Justice, Cook County, Illinois, supporting the inclusion of the Republic of Poland in the United States Visa Waiver Program. To be included a country must meet various security and other requirements with the United States. Membership in the VWP enables nationals of participating countries to travel to the U.S. for tourism or business for stays of 90 days or less without obtaining a visa.

Swing'n Sugar Squares Sweetheart Couple

June and Bill Kruse of Romeoville were the Sweetheart Couple who represented Swing'n Sugar Squares Square Dance Club at Metropolitan Chicago Association of Square Dancers Sweet-heart Dance. Many square dancers filled the gym floor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Roselle when Square Dance clubs from throughout the Chicago area were represented, each by a Sweetheart Couple in the grand march.

During the school year Swing'n Sugar Squares Square Dance Club, sponsored by Evergreen Park Recreation Department, dances at Evergreen Park Central Junior High School, 95th and Spaulding.

This summer the Illinois State convention will be held at the Oak Brook Hills Marriott Resort on July 27-29. Square dancing is the official Illinois State folk dance and all of the clubs welcome you. For more information, call Hank @ 773-238-5496 or Helen @ 773-735-7638 or visit swinginsugarsquares.com.

Evergreen Park extends due date for vehicle stickers

by Matt Mayer

Officials at the Feb. 20 Evergreen Park Board of Trustees meeting approved an ordinance amending a section and chapter of the municipal code pertaining to vehicle stickers. Village Clerk Kathy Aparo requested that the vehicle sticker due date be extended from June 30 to Sept. 30 next year. Last year the village had some 3,000 stickers sold on June 30. "We were lucky enough to have Trustees Carol Kyle and Mary Keane to help behind the desk", said Aparo.

It just happens to be an awful day - the due date coincides with Day in the Park, which is always the last Saturday in June. We receive numerous calls for the Fourth of July parade and fire works. Water bills are also due on June 30. The Sept. 30 due date will not coincide with any village events, said Aparo.

Other highlights: officials approved a resolution between the village and the State of Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) regarding maintenance of property on state highways for 2012 and 2013. The ordinance states that the village desires to undertake the location, construction, operation and maintance of driveways and street returns, water mains, sanitary and storms sewers, street lights, traffic signals, sidewalks, landscaping, etc, on state highways, within the municipality, which by law falls under jurisdiction and control of (IDOT) hereinafter referred to as department.

The ordinance requires an individual working permit be obtained from the department prior to any installations being constructed either by the municipality or a private person working for a firm under contract and supervision of the village. The village also guarantees that all work will be performed in accordance with conditions of the permit granted by the department and to hold the state of Illinois harmless during the construction of any work, and also assume all liability for damages to person or property due to accidents, or work performed under the provision of the permit.

Village View

We serve our community with good news!

FAR SOUTH EDITION

Volume 10 | Number 5 | March 6, 2012

Oak Forest, Orland Park, Tinley Park

Orland approves two licenses only one counts

by Jan Glaz

The approval of two applications for automatic amusement device operators licenses were approved at the February 20th Board of Trustee Meeting, but the number of available licenses were only reduced by one (1). Presently, the Village Code permits a maximum of twenty (20) automatic amusement device operator's licenses. Beggar's Pizza located at 11329 143rd Street, submitted an application as did Rokwelz Bar Meets Grill, 11265 159th Street. Because Rokwelz Bar Meets Grill is a change of ownership the approval will not affect the maximum number of licenses available. With the addition of Beggar's Pizza the total number of currently active licenses is seventeen (17).

Attorney News: Due to communication problems with the long standing law firm of Odelson & Sterk, 3318 W. 95th Street, Evergreen Park, Illinois; Orland approved the hiring of the Del Galdo Law Group, 1441 Harlem Avenue, Berwyn, Illinois. The Del Galdo Law Group oversees the Orland Park Fire Protection District and has a similar price structure as the Odelson & Sterk firm.

It was reported that the Village of Orland Park is working with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) to develop an ordinance for water conservation. The Ordinance is expected to come before the Board of Trustees in the spring. The agency will study water use in the village and recommend areas where water use can be decreased. Effective ways of reducing water consumption varies: Installation of low-flow plumbing devices, limiting the amount of landscape water usage in the summer months, increasing water rates for residents and businesses whose water use is high and implementing water conservation devices in new construction and remodeling projects.

Before the Orland Meeting adjourned a request was granted to the Orland Township Food Pantry for a license to conduct a raffle at their Evening Out With Friends Benefit, scheduled for Wednesday, March 21, 2012 at The Orland Township, 14807 S. Ravinia Avenue. All funds raised will go to the Orland Township Food Pantry.

Oak Forest Alderman against permit revision

by Jan Glaz

Alderman Richard Simon voiced his opinion before casting a no vote for a resolution revising building and construction fees at the Oak Forest City Council Meeting on February 28th. The amendment adds replacement windows as an improvement requiring a permit/fee. Simon believed it was a residents business to buy windows, not the state's business to determine what kind of window they buy. "I don't understand for the life of me why people won't stand up and get rid of these politicians that cause these kinds of things to happen and it is the State of Illinois politicians that cause it," he said. Simon strengthened his view by mentioning the fact that the State of Illinois sewer mandates are going to cost the city an additional 3 to 4 million dollars.

Building Commissioner Gary Gerdes explained that currently the city requires a city permit when a window installation goes to a larger opening, a bay or bow window. The State of Illinois mandates that the City of Oak Forest follow the 2009 international energy conservation ruling which states that any window replacement is an alteration to a building and is part of a permit code that must meet certain standards. The city cannot make amendments to the code to make it less stringent, the State of Illinois requires that the code be followed per word. A lessor fee of $35.00 will be charged, minor improvement fees are $55.00 - $95.00. Residents are to inform the City prior to purchase so they can check requirements before any windows are on site. The resolution passed by a majority, Alderman Richard Simon and Alderman Charles P. Toland cast nay votes.

Mayor Kuspa, Police Chief Gregg Anderson, and the City of Oak Forest praised Police Officer Laura Frank and presented her with a Life Saving Award. Her swift actions led to saving the life of a woman in full cardiac arrest, Frank received her quality lifesaving CPR training from the Oak Forest Fire Department. Police Chief Gregg Anderson said Officer Frank was dispatched to assist the Fire Department after it was reported that a woman was on the floor of her home, not breathing. When Officer Frank arrived, a male subject was administering ineffective chest compressions, she swiftly began proper CPR on the woman and instructed the male subject when to give breaths. The Fire Department arrived on the scene and determined that her actions and control of the situation were responsible for saving the life of the Oak Forest resident.

At the close of the meeting Mayor Kuspa invited public participation. A resident approached the podium, she complained that the numerous flashing lights displayed by a business on 159th and Cicero was a distraction while driving. Commissioner Gary Gerdes replied that her complaint involved temporary signs. He reported that law officers were auditing the commercial corridors in the area of 159th Street and that the Building Department is in the process of formulating a plan to address the issue. Gerdes mentioned the fact that by city ordinance businesses are allowed only one temporary sign and there are locations that have up to nine.

It is not to late to advertise in our March 20 issue!
Let the readers, make the right choice!
Our March 20th issue is at various locations on Monday, March 19 and they will see your ad!
Call 312-624-8996.

Orland Township Supervisor Paul O'Grady and Amtrak employee (and Orland Park resident) Linda Chenore

Orland Township Food Pantry Receives Donation from Amtrak Food Drive

The Orland Township Food Pantry, 14807 S. Ravinia Avenue, received a generous donation on Friday, January 27, 2012 from Amtrak and Orland Park residents, Terry and Linda Chenore.

Linda Chenore, an employee of Amtrak for 34 years, encountered a request for pet food and supplies in a recent edition of the Orland Township Focus, the quarterly newsletter sent to all Township residents. An avid animal lover who has volunteered at the Animal Welfare League in the past, Chenore approached her supervisors, many of whom were also animal enthusiasts, with the idea of a food drive to benefit the Orland Township Food Pantry.

After gaining approval from Amtrak's corporate office in Washington, DC, a food drive, "Feed the Hungry Pets", which began shortly after Christmas, was held through January 15, 2012. An estimate of about 500 lbs. of pet food were collected from across the Chicagoland area over the three-week duration and it was then donated to the Pet Pantry. The drive also collected food for an additional charity: "Care for Real" (www.careforreal.org), a food pantry in Chicago's Edgewater neighborhood.

Because of the abundance of abandoned pets, Amtrak created its own informal pet care center, where employees would help care for the animals in what little ways they could. Witnessing this trend is what sparked Chenore to take action and organize the drive.

"We don't want them to have to give up their pets in this economic time," said Chenore. "Keep on collecting." Orland Township Supervisor, Paul O'Grady, who developed and oversees the Pet Pantry, was happy to have the support from both Amtrak and the Chenores. "I'd like to thank Amtrak for supporting Linda's vision and to all who donated to our cause. It's amazing to witness and experience such active citizenship. I commend and thank Terry and Linda for their help with the Pet Pantry." said O'Grady. For information on the Orland Township Food Pantry, please call (708) 403-4222.

Village View

We serve our community with good news!

SOUTH SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 13 | Number 5 | March 6, 2012

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

Palos Heights seeks to pay general obligation bond

by Matt Mayer

Officials at the Feb. 21 Palos Heights City Council meeting approved a motion to authorize the City attorney to draft an ordinance calling for the payment and redemption of the general obligation library bond, series 2003, dated January 7, 2003 in the amount of $1,050,00 on June 1, 2012. It was approved subject to review and approval of financial documents, which were requested on February 8.

Other highlights: Recognition awards for their volunteer efforts and community support were presented to Barb Campbell 4th of July chairperson from 2009-2011 and Donna Ondriska Farmers Market chairperson from 2009-2011.

The picnic shelter permit application and rental fees of $75 per day for residents and $150 per day for non residents was approved as well as a three year contract with Central States Fireworks for the 4th of July fireworks at a cost not to exceed $12,000 per year. The 2012 roads program for $274,969.55 was also approved pending budget approval.

A referendum will appear on the March 20 primary ballot asking residents if they desire to have the city seek municipal aggregation, which is the purchase of electricity through a broker rather than directly from ComEd. By the city entering into a cooperative, the city is projected to save residents money on the electric bills.

Average savings for municipalities who have joined a cooperative is around 15 percent. The referendum states: Shall the city have authority to arrange for the supply of electricity for its residential and small commercial retail customers who have not opted out of such program? If the referendum passes the city would then need to obtain an energy broker. Additional information may be obtained by visiting the city's Website at www.palosheights.org/.

Worth Park District Luncheons

Senior Lunch, bring your appetite because we will cook you a fantastic lunch and serve you delicious dessert. After lunch we will play Bingo to give you a chance to win prizes. $6.00 per serving from 12 noon until 2pm. Location is the Worth Park District Terrace Centre at 115th and Beloit, just 3 blocks west of Harlem Ave. Stop by the Worth Park District to register for this event and lunch. You have chance to meet new friends, and see old ones to. Come join the fun. For more information call 708-448-7080.

Senior Lunch Brunch take a trip with us to a local restaurants each month. Indulge with your favorite foods, and spend as much time as you wish with your friends. Let us do the driving as you relax and have a good time. Menu will be available at the time of registration. Pay for the portion of the check at the time of trip. For more details call 708-448-7080. Our next stop is on March 14, 2012 at Ditkas, Oakbrook Terrace.

Sandra Baker, Vocational Coordinator assists Leroy Anderson with his cooking skills

Sertoma Centre Needs Volunteers!

If you are looking for a way to make a difference in your community and the lives of others look no further! Sertoma Centre, Inc. is looking for people willing to donate one evening of their time on Tuesday, March 13, 2012. Join other volunteers for a bus ride to McCormick Place in Chicago, IL and a few hours of packing exhibitor booths at the International Housewares Show. For ten years, Sertoma Centre has been fortunate enough to be one of five charities allowed to receive donations from the exhibitors at this trade show.

Products from the Housewares Show are used in all Sertoma facilities and residences. Programs including Developmental Training which utilizes many housewares items such as electric skillets and cooking utensils to help individuals with disabilities develop cooking skills. In addition, donated merchandise is sold at Sertoma Centre's Thrift Store Good as New, in Matteson, IL.

On Tuesday, March 13th, the coach buses will leave Sertoma Centre, 4343 W. 123rd St, Alsip at 4 p.m. SHARP and return by 9:30 p.m. (You must arrive at Sertoma no later than 3:45 p.m.). Participants will receive a boxed dinner during the ride into Chicago. Sertoma staff will accommodate anyone who is interested in joining us. Participants must be 18 years of age. Register as a volunteer by Tuesday, March 6, 2012 by contacting Karey Wentz, Thrift Store Manager at (708) 481-5627, kwentz@sertomacentre.org. or Amy Chmura, Director of Advancement & Communications at 708-730-6206, achmura@sertomacentre.org. For additional information visit www.sertomacentre.org home page and click on the Housewares Show Volunteer Information link.

Sertoma Centre, Inc. is a nationally-accredited, not-for-profit agency that provides services to over 625 individuals with developmental, physical and emotional disabilities, and/or mental illness. For more information, to schedule a tour, volunteer or to make a donation, please contact Amy Chmura, Director of Advancement & Communications, Sertoma Centre, 4343 West 123rd Street, Alsip, IL 60803. (708)730-6206. www.sertomacentre.org.

Check out the Palos Park Public Library with exciting programs

The Book & Film Series returns to the Palos Park Public Library on Wednesday, March 14th at 2:00 pm with the Academy Award winning film The Help based on the bestselling novel by Kathryn Stockett. Run time 146 minutes. This program is free and open to the public. All who attend will be entered in a raffle to win a free copy of the book. Didn't read the book? Come out anyway! Join us to judge a book by its movie. The library is located at 12330 Forest Glen Boulevard. Call the library to register at (708) 448-1530, or for more information, visit the library online at www.palosparklibrary.org.

Children ages 5 and up are invited to learn basic cupcake decorating techniques and create a Spring treat to enjoy at home on Saturday, March 24th at 1 pm at the Palos Park Public Library. The library is located at 12330 Forest Glen Blvd., Palos Park, IL. All supplies will be provided. Parents are also invited to join in the fun. Call the library to register for this special event by March 20th at 708-448-1530.

Registration will begin for the Spring Session of Night Owl Story Time at the Palos Park Public Library scheduled to begin Thursday, March 15th at 6:30 p.m. Parents or caregivers must accompany children in the library during story time. Call the library to register for this program at (708)448-1530. The library is located at 12330 Forest Glen Blvd., Palos Park, IL.

Registration will begin for the Spring sessions of Good Morning Story Time at the Palos Park Public Library scheduled to begin Tuesday, March 13th and Wednesday, March 14th. Children ages 2-5 attend Tuesday morning sessions at 10:15 am. Children ages 2-3 attend Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am. Parents or caregivers must accompany children in the library during story time.

Call the library to register for this program at (708)448-1530. The library is located at 12330 Forest Glen Blvd., Palos Park, IL

2012 Walk, Run or Roll ½ Mile Race
For Individuals with Special Needs
Sunday, May 6th, 2012 at 7:30 AM
Palos Heights City Hall (Rte. 83 & 76th Ave.)
Registration Deadlines and Fees: January 1st: $7 (Guaranteed Water Bottle, T-shirt and Medal) March 1st: $10 (Guaranteed T-shirt and Medal) April 1st: $15 (Guaranteed T
Completed forms can be faxed or mailed back to Lori Chesna.
Fax: 708.389.6458
Mail to: SWSRA, 12521 S. Kostner Ave., Alsip, IL 60803
If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Lori Chesna at 708-389-9423.

Village View

We serve our community with good news!

B-MAC EDITION

Volume 6 | Number 5 | March 6, 2012

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Windfall for Midlothian

by Jan Glaz

Mayor Terrence Stephens introduced an important resolution concerning the Cell Tower at the public works area on February 22nd during the Village of Midlothian's Board of Trustee Meeting. Village Administrator James Lang provided the details that indicated a financial windfall associated with the Cell Tower Agreement. Mr. Lang reported that he's been negotiating with a company that specializes in renegotiating leasing agreements that are tower owned and in this case American Tower owns the cell tower, but does not solicit tower users or put antennas on the tower. The village does receive an annual rent from one user, U.S. Tower; the rent has been negotiated to a lump sum of what the estimated value of the tower is over a period 5 or 6 years, roughly about $120,000 to $125,000. Lang also explained that there's an approximate ten foot easement outside the current area of the tower where additional users can be recruited and for every user that can be obtained they can negotiate a monthly or annual sum, for example, if used by AT&T paying $5,000 per month; Midlothian would receive $2,500 of that amount, 50% of the lease agreement. There is enough room for as many as eight additional users on the tower. This opportunity has the potential to maximize revenue for the village, up to $8,000 per month, plus the lump sum.

Midlothian has joined in an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for the State Comptrollers Program whereas money owed to the village is collected without charge to the city. The process involves withholding a violator's income tax refunds. The city council also agreed to a biennial resolution that comes before the board of trustees every two years for IDOT to allow the village to work on state maintained right-of-ways.

Other news announced by the Mayor before adjourning the meeting was the disclosure of grant money offered by the Liquor Control Commission to achieve an 80% compliance rate for minimum age tobacco sales. The money is offered by the State of Illinois to aid the village with the tobacco enforcement program.

Crestwood invests in Crestwood

By Jan Glaz

An ordinance was approved at the Village of Crestwood Board Meeting on March 1st to enter into an agreement with a public relations firm; the Chicago based LaVelle Consulting Services, LLC. A quality public relations firm councils, analyzes trends and implements various programs of action designed to serve both the public and the city. Mutual understanding between public interest and government is the key to achieving mutual goals and to developing new commercial businesscs. The village board agreed 5-1 that the monetary benefits outweighed the cost. The decision to promote itself is a reflection of Crestwood's motto, "A Village still on the Move".

The City Council accepted two sets of bids for consideration: Motor Fuel Tax bids for the 2012 Sidewalk and Curh program and the Motor Fuel Tax bids for the 2012 Street Maintenance Program.

It was reported that the primary elections are March 20th. The states that have already held primaries related a decline in voter participation in this very significant election. President Obama is not opposed on the ballot. Four candidates are up for the Republican vote: Rick Santorum, Mitt Romney, Ron Paul and Newt Gingrich. It is important to cast your vote because the delegates are the individuals who actually get to vote for the president as many states require delegates to vote for who they support. A reminder: when you vote for your candidate you must vote for the delegate pledged to that candidate, so if a ballot contains the names of the delegates for a particular candidate be sure to vote for the delegate, it is more important than voting for your particular candidate. Early voting ends March 15th; the polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Before Mayor Stranczek moved to adjourn he announced the acceptance of the Bonds,and Oaths for the Police Department: Robert D. Benedetto; Andres A. Bonilla; Ian A. Covey; Daniel C. O'Dwyer; Joseph R. Pavlik, Jr.; Scott R. Savich; Megan M. Smith and Angelina L. Summerfield

St. Christopher School presents Pre School Shadow Days

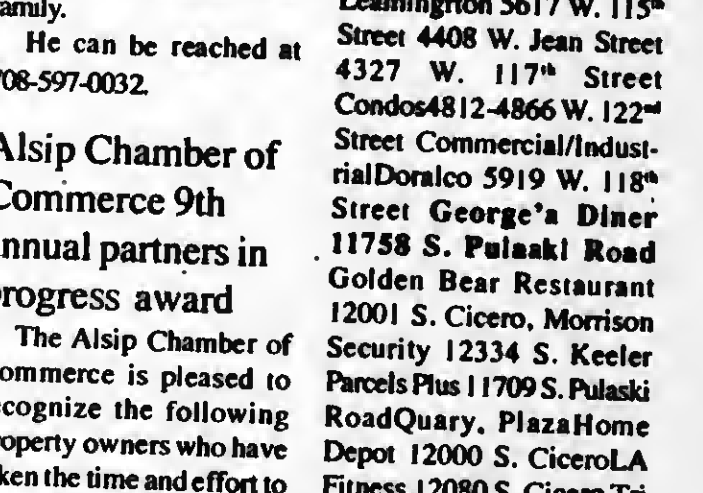
Prospective pre-school students and their parents are cordially invited for a fun, get acquainted visit to St. Christopher School, 14611 S. Keeler Ave., Midlothian. Three days have been scheduled with different themes for this Shadowing experience. The days and the themes are as follows;

Thursday, March 22 -Fun with Dr. Seuss

Tuesday, April 24 - Let's play with Curious George

Thursday, May 10 - Let's celebrate May Crowning

The Shadowing times are 9:00 - 10:00 am and 1:00 - 2:00 pm for all three days. The prospective pre- schoolers will enjoy a snack, do craftrs and participate in various activities. For further questions, kindly call the school at 385-8776 and/or check out the website; www.stchrisschool.org



Members of the Veterans Memorial Middle School Student Council collected 876 pairs of jeans during "Go Red Week" for heart health awareness. The school donated the jeans to Aéropostale for their annual "Teens for Jeans" drive which benefits homeless teenagers.

Dr. Lloyd Blakeman has moved his practice full time to Midlothian at 4500 W. 147th Street, in the building also occupied by Associated Counseling. His office and all medical records at the Worth location have been relocated to the Midlothian office.

A 1992 graduate of the University Of Health Sciences- College Of Osteopathic Medicine in Des Moines, Dr. Blakeman completed his internship and residency at the Chicago Osteopathic Medical Centers in Olympia Fields and Chicago.

With convenient parking and a visible location on a major thoroughfare, the Midlothian office is ready to welcome you and your family.

He can be reached at 708-597-0032.

Alsip Chamber of Commerce 9th annual partners in progress award

The Alsip Chamber of Commerce is pleased to recognize the following property owners who have taken the time and effort to maintain their property in an outstanding matter. These property owners contribute to the overall image of our Village and are in fact part of our success and growing reputation as a great place to live, work and do business.

Homes 11753 S. Leamingrton 5617 W. 115th Street 4408 W. Jean Street 4327 W. 117th Street Condos4812-4866 W. 122nd Street Commercial/IndustrialDoralco 5919 W. 118th Street George'a Diner 11758 S. Pulaski Road Golden Bear Restaurant 12001 S. Cicero, Morrison Security 12334 S. Keeler Parcels Plus 11709 S. Pulaski RoadQuary, PlazaHome Depot 12000 S. CiceroLA Fitness 12080 S. Cicero Tri State Condos 12557 S. Laramie AvePublic Building Fountain Hills Golf Club Clubhouse 12601 S. Kedzie

Lipinski applauds House GOP's decision to reverse course and maintain dedicated funding for Public Transportation

Congressman Dan Lipinski (D-IL) issued the following statement:

"Published reports now indicate that House Republican leaders have decided to abandon their plan to end the dedicated use of motor fuel taxes for mass transit in the House transportation reauthorization bill. This is a victory for everyone who rides the CTA, Metra, and Pace, as well as for drivers. Having helped to lead the bipartisan effort to force Republican leaders to maintain dedicated funding for mass transit, I'm very pleased by this decision. Ending dedicated funding would have put $450 million for local public transportation al risk at a time when the CTA, Metra, and Pace are already short of revenue and have major infrastructure needs. That's money that keeps trains and buses running on time and helps to keep cars off our overcrowded roads.

"Undoubtedly, this is a victory and a step in the right direction. But there is more that needs to be done to improve the House transportation bill, and details on the new House proposal are still sketchy. House Republicans now seem to want to pass a shorter bill. I would like the bill to be as long as possible to facilitate long-term planning, but I have said that we are better off with a shorter bill if that would mean a higher level of funding per year. The proposed bill cuts funding to Illinois by $130 million to $174 million per year; that is unacceptable and I will continue to fight for adequate funding. As I have said, a shorter but still multi-year bill is the easiest way to get there. I also continue to work to restore the Projects of National Significance program, which could provide funding for the CREATE rail modernization project and other major projects in Illinois.

"The news today is very encouraging and I will continue to press the Republicans to make this a robust, bipartisan transportation reauthorization bill that is good for our region and good for our country. The American people don't want partisan bickering and games, they want action that reduces costly congestion and delays for individuals and businesses and helps promote job growth in the short term and the long term. I remain ready to work with my colleagues across the aisle to achieve that goal."

Under a bipartisan agreement that dates back 30 years to President Reagan, a portion of motor fuel taxes has been dedicated to pay for investments in public transportation. Currently, 2.86 cents of the gas tax is set aside for mass transit. The House Republican bill would have directed that funding to highways, leaving transit with no guaranteed revenue source.

Steve Bilski from Oak Lawn
bowled his 6th 300 Game on Feb. 21st, 2012

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We have found that through the years of publishing the readers are interested in general information and also local happenings within their community. Therefore because we are fully electronic, we will not be accepting faxed or mailed news releases.

March Madness Event

Silver Lake Country Club will be the sight of the Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce March Membership Madness Event. The event will take place on Thursday, March 22 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Country Club which is located at 14700 S. 82nd Avenue in Orland Park . There is no cost for potential members. The cost for members is $7 unless they bring a prospective member. OPACC members who bring a potential chamber receive free admision with their guest.

"Mareh became our Membership Madness month a few of years ago," explains Keloryn Putnam , Executive Director of the Orland Park Area Chamber. "Our Membership Committee thought it would make the event fun to adopt a Mareh Madness basketball theme. The evening is a fun way to get to know our Chamber members and learn about the benefits of a chamber membership to see how it can help your business."

The Chamber is offering a $50 discount on membership rates to all who join during the month of March. "Chamber membership can be a valuable marketing tool for local business. Our March Madness Event was created to encourage all businesses to join the Chamber and find out for themselves the value of membership," Putnam stated.

Spring 2012 Oak Lawn Park District Youth Programs

The Oak Lawn Park District is offering a Lil' Horsemanship program for children ages 5 -7, and under 100 pounds. This program will teach pony lovers how to ride and care for a real live pony. This 5-week program is held at Forest View Farms (16717 S. Lockwood, Tinley Park, Il 60477). Register at the Oak View Center, then call the stable at 708-560-0306, to arrange classes and bring your receipt to the first lesson. The next session will run March through May. Fee is $80. For more information, please call the Oak View Center at 708-857-2200.

The Oak Lawn Park District is offering a Horseback Riding program for children ages 8 and up. This program is designed to teach riders how to master the skill of horseback riding. Lessons will be offered in cooperation with the New Traditions Riding Academy at Palos Hills Riding Stables (10100 S. Kean Ave.) Times are arranged through the school. Riders must wear long pants, closed-toe shoes and safety helmets. Helmets are available for rental each week. Registration is required at the park district for the discounted rates. After registration is complete at the Oak Lawn Park District, call the riding school at 708-598-7718, to set up a lessons schedule and bring your receipt to the first lesson.

The next session will run March through May. Beginner lesson fee is $145 for 5 lessons and $290 for 10 lessons. Fee for Advanced lessons is $170 for 5 lessons and $340 for 10 lessons. For more Oak View Center at 708-857-2200.

The Oak Lawn Park District is offering a Magic Workshop program for children ages 5- 12, on Monday, April 23rd, from 5:00 – 5:55 pm, at the Oak View Center (4625 W. 110th St.). Participants will be delighted and amazed by Magician, Gary Kantor, who will teach age appropriate tricks. All materials will be provided and each child will receive a magic kit to take home. Fee is $20 for residents and $22 for non-residents. For more information, please call the Oak View Center at 708-857-2200.

The Oak Lawn Park District is offering a Junior Chefs program for children, ages 5 through 10, who want to get creative in the kitchen and learn how to prepare tasty and fun foods. Sessions run on Tuesdays from March 20th – May 1st, or on Thursdays from March 22nd until May 3rd. Both session times are 3:45 until 5:00 pm. Programs will take place at the Oak View Center (4625 W. 110th St.). The registration fee is $54 for residents and $66 for non-residents. For more information, please contact Maura Kennedy at 708-857-2200, ext. 2605.

Play and have fun while learning. Les Rouges French program will introduce both parent and child, ages 5 – 10, to the French language. This class teaches colors, numbers, shapes, animals, the alphabet and much more. Classes will run on Saturdays from March 24th – May 26th, from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm at the Oak View Center, 4625 W. 110th Street. The registration fee for residents and non-residents is $115. For more information, please contact Maura Kennedy at 708-857-2200, ext. 2605

Remembrance for those who have recently died

Marine Cpl. Conner Lowry, 24, of Beverly, died in Afghanistan on Thursday, March 1st, the Chicago Tribune reports. He was a graduate of Brother Rice.

Patrick Joseph Stella, age 38, son of John and Mary, father of Alexis, Laken, Vincent Stella, brother of Tony(Tillie);Jennifer(Mike) Blievernicht; Nick, grandson of Rose West, nephew of many aunts and uncles including me.

May God bless and keep them and their families safe in his arms.

Oak Lawn Mayor proposes expanding Village Green

by Matt Mayer

Officials at the Feb. 24 Oak Lawn Board of Trustees meeting discussed Mayor Dave Heilmann's proposed expansion of the Village Green. The expansion would increase by some 40,000 square feet if the board approved a proposal that includes relocating the Masonic Temple at 9420 S. 52nd Avenue. Under the proposed expansion the village would acquire the former Family Services site, said Heilmann.

The terms of the proposal are as follows: The village would acquire the former site of the family services center, south of the municipal building and contribute $875,000 toward the construction of a new Masonic Temple. The temple owners would then cede their current property to the village said Heilmann

The Masonic parking lot and vacated building would extend the Village Green to 52nd Avenue. The Village Green is widely used; we have a whole series of events there, especially in the warmer months. It has become very popular for residents and their families, said Heilmann.

The proposal was scheduled to be voted on at the meeting but was tabled until residents voice their concerns and ideas. Trustee Alex Oleijiczak said he was concerned about how this would affect residents near the Village Green.

They also may not want to deal with the construction. The residents put up with fests and activities. This is not the right time to have a discussion, said Olejniczak. If the board approves the plan, the next step would be a feasibility study, which would help officials determine what would be best for the site. If approved construction could commence this summer, said Heilmann.

Oak Lawn Senior Center offers monthly programs

At 10:00 a.m. on March 19th the Oak Lawn Senior Center, located at 5330 West 95 Street, will welcome Edizon Dayao.

He is a keyboard musician and vocalist and is noted as "Chicago's Master" of the keyboard. Refreshments will be served at the conclusion of his performance. Thursday, March 29th at 10:30 a.m. is Box Lunch Day at the Oak Lawn Senior Center.

The sponsor of the month is Oak Lawn Pharmacy located at 4700 W. 95 Street. They offer patients free delivery and can automatically refill and deliver medications monthly. They offer easy payment options and except all insurance plans and offer competitive prices.

Tickets may be purchased at the Center for $4.00. Seating
is limited

Oak Lawn Public Library announces programs for March

Student Artwork on Display at Oak Lawn Library

Student artwork from Oak Lawn Hometown Middle School will be on display in the Youth Services Department of the Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Avenue, from March 4-31. Art Teacher Mara Petraitis coordinated the exhibit, which features work from students in 6th through 8th grade.

AARP Driver Safety Program

Registration is currently underway for an AARP Driver Safety Program to be hosted by the Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Avenue, on Thursday & Friday, March 8 & 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The AARP Driver Safety Program is designed to meet the needs of drivers age 50 and up. Many insurance companies offer reduced rates to drivers who receive a certificate of completion. Patrons must register in person at the library's Reception Booth. The fee is $12 for AARP members and $14 for nonmembers. Registrants must present a current AARP card at enrollment to receive the discount. Limit: 30 per series.

Brunch Recipe Tasting

Registration is currently underway for a Brunch recipe tasting to be hosted by the Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Ave. Join Chef Kate Bradley on Tuesday, March 13 at 7 p.m. for this review of recipes, featuring Mustard Encrusted Chicken, Vegetable Brunch Strata, Pecan Casserole, Stuffed French Toast and Baked Fruit.

Advance registration and payment of a $5 fee for food samples are required. Sign up at the library's Reception Booth. Limit 60 participants.

CUB Phone Bill Clinic

Registration is currently underway for the Oak Lawn Library's CUB Phone Bill Clinic to be held Thursday, March 22 at 2 p.m. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. Bring in your phone bill and a Citizens Utility Board (CUB) expert will meet with you one-on-one to explain any confusing charges and provide money-saving tips. Register by phone at (708) 422-4990 or in person at the Reception Booth. Limit: 50.

Free Concert: Dyed in the Wool

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Avenue, will host a free concert from Dyed in the Wool on Sunday, March 11 from 2-3:30 p.m. This talented quartet will share an energetic array of Celtic and Folk music on the Irish drum, flute, mandolin and guitar. Sponsored by the Friends of the Oak Lawn Library. No advance registration required.

"The Write Stuff" for Grades 3 to 5

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Avenue, will host a free program for young writers in third through fifth grades titled "The Write Stuff: From Bad to Verse" on Tuesday, March 13 from 4-5 p.m. Explore poetry and puns until you can't stanza it anymore. Participants will flex their creative muscles with a series of exercises that can be completed during each program session. Advance registration is required at the Youth Services Desk with the child's library card.

Health Screenings at Library

The Oak Lawn Community Partnership will hold free health screenings at the Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Avenue, on Wednesday, March 14 from 10-11 a.m. Blood pressure screenings will be performed by personnel from the Oak Lawn Fire Department. The Oak Lawn Community Partnership is a cooperative alliance between the Village of Oak Lawn, Advocate Christ Medical Center, service organizations, educators, interested community members and business leaders.

Teen Game Night

Teens in sixth through twelfth grades are invited to participate in a free video game night hosted by the Oak Lawn Public Library (9427 S. Raymond Ave.) on Wednesday, March 14 from 78:30 p.m. Students will have open play on Kinect, Wii and Dance Dance Revolution game systems. Teens may also bring their own controllers and video games (rated up to "T" for "Teen") to play with others. Snacks and drinks provided. No advance registration.

Columbian Exposition of 1893

Honoring the anniversary of Columbus's landing in the Americas, the Exposition was Chicago's proof to the world that it had recovered from the Great Fire and was now a global metropolis. Join historian Michael Corcoran for "Columbian Exposition of 1893" on Thursday, March 15 at 7 p.m. at the Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Ave. Corcoran will present a fascinating virtual tour of the Exposition and Midway, featuring hundreds of images culled from period books and fascinating stories about the fair that changed Chicago and the world.

Piggie Party

Celebrate National Pig Day with a pig party (and a few elephants thrown in for good measure). Visit the Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Avenue, on Saturday, March 17 from 11 a.m. to Noon or 1-2 p.m. for "Piggie Party." During this Youth Services program, children of all ages will have an oink of a good time creating pig crafts and playing pig-related games. No advance registration.

Rose Basics

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Avenue, presents "Rose Basics" on Monday, March 19 at 7 p.m. Have you dreamed about beautiful roses, but never been able to make that dream a reality? Master Gardener Frank DeVries of the University of Illinois Extension will discuss the various types of roses available today, the process for selecting the right one, the proper way to plant and care for roses, and some of the pests that you might encounter in your garden.

The Green Teams

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Avenue, will host a free program for students in grades 1-5 titled "Recycling Rangers" on Tuesday, March 20 from 4-5 p.m. Through exploring new ways to protect their environment, teams will create action plans, play games, make crafts and receive completion badges. Advance registration required.

Community Memorial Foundation supports Saint Xavier University Health Center

Saint Xavier University has received a grant of $25,000 from Community Memorial Foundation to support the School of Nursing's Health Center, a nurse practitioner-managed primary care facility. The Health Center provides quality, affordable care to SXU students, faculty and staff, as well as to patients from the surrounding community.

More than half of its patient visits each year are from community members. The Health Center offers preventive services including immunizations and physical exams, minor illness and injury care, management of chronic conditions, well-women exams, health education, laboratory services, referrals to specialty care and much

Orland Park informs voters regarding meeting

Electrical aggregation means many customers joining together to form a group to buy electrical service for residential and small business customers.

Like communities throughout Illinois , the Village of Orland Park has a referendum on the March 20th Presidential Primary Ballot asking if the village should pursue buying electricity in bulk for residential and small business customers. Consumers would continue to receive bills and service calls from ComEd with the actual purchase of electricity from a separate vendor listed on the bill. Those who don't want to participate will be able to opt out.

"This is similar to buying in bulk at the store," explained Orland Park Mayor Dan McLaughlin. "The village buying electricity collectively could potentially mean an annual savings of 15 to 20 percent on the energy portion of an electric bill," the mayor said, adding, "This would be a nice savings for our residents."

To help voters understand electrical aggregation, the village will host two informational community meetings. Representatives from the Northern Illinois Municipal Electric Collaborative (NIMEC) will present information and be available for questions on Tuesday, March 6 at 6 p.m. and Tuesday, March 13 at 7 p.m. at the Orland Park Civic Center, 14750 South Ravinia Avenue .

Worded by the State of Illinois , the referendum asks; "Shall the Village of Orland Park have to authority to arrange for the supply of electricity for its residential and small commercial retail customers who have not opted out of such program?" The referendum enables the village to negotiate and research electrical service providers.

"Those who want to be a part of the village buying electricity as a large group could potentially save $150 to $200 a year for an average electric bill," McLaughlin said. "For a typical family, that could pay for a week of groceries or other expenses," he noted.

Information about electrical aggregation is available on the village's website at www.orland-park.il.us or by calling the village's Office of Public Information at 708/403-6150.

Community Memorial Foundation, located in Hinsdale, Ill., is dedicated to improving the health of people who live and work in the western suburbs of Chicago, and partners with local non-profits to support creative programs and services that have a measurable impact on the health and well being of its target communities. The Foundation's grant will enhance the Health Center's capacity to provide uninsured and underinsured community members with access to healthcare, with an emphasis on the expansion of service to patients livlng in the 27 communities in the Community Memorial Foundation service area. As part of this effort, Health Center staff will expand relationships with community partners and expand health promotion and wellness activities in the target communities in order to increase awareness of the Health Center and expand access to services for under served patients from these communities.

"We were honored to receive this grant from the Community Memorial Foundation," said Gloria Jacobson, dean of SXU's School of Nursing. "So many people need quality, affordable access to healthcare and with this support we can help more people receive the services they need and deserve."

The Community Memorial Foundation targets the following communities: Bridgeview, Broadview, Brookfield, Burr Ridge, Clarendon Hills, Countryside, Darien, Downers Grove, Hickory Hills, Hinsdale, Hodgkins, Indian Head Park, Justice, LaGrange, LaGrange Park, Lyons, McCook, North Riverside, Oak Brook, Riverside, Stickney, Summit, Westchester, Western Springs, Westmont, Willow Springs, and Willowbrook.

Lookingglass Theatre entertains us with Rick Bayless culinary delight world class circus acts plus a performance

Co-created by Rick Bayless, Tony Hernandez and Heidi Stillman

Co-directed by Tony Hernandez and Heidi Stillman

Lookingglass Theatre, Frontera Grill and Silverguy Entertainment present Rick Bayless in Cascabel: Dinner, Daring, Desire, an unforgettable theatrical adventure featuring a sumptuous feast, world-class circus acts, and a tantalizing love story starring celebrity chef Rick Bayless.

The culinary and theatrical experience of the year runs for four weeks only, March 21 thru April 22, 2012 at Lookingglass Theatre Company, located inside Chicago 's historic Water Tower Water Works, 821 N. Michigan Ave. at Pearson.

In this sensual tale of love and hunger, the audience will join the guests of the boardinghouse Cascabel at their courtyard table where they will enjoy the same meal the Chef is preparing for the boarding house.

From his meager kitchen, the mysterious new cook conjures an enchanting cuisine, which seems to give those who eat it fantastic and magical abilities.

But he Is singularly focused on the proprietress of the house, a melancholy woman with no interest in his food, who barely ever leaves her room. Will she ever try a bite? And what will happen if she does?

Cascabel is sensory dining unlike anything you've ever experienced. A feast of vibrant flavors from Rick Bayless' famous Frontera Grill collide with heart-stopping circus acts and a charming love story for a never-before-seen combination of flavor, circus, comedy, dance and music.

"In Rick Bayless, Lookingglass has found a kindred spirit who loves adventure every bit as much as we do – and nothing could be more adventurous than combining theater, circus, and dinner in this way that has, literally, never been done before, says Artistic Director Andy White.

"Like many Lookingglass shows, this will be an evening that celebrates discovery, as a new cook arrives at a boardinghouse, and his recipes soon have a transformative effect on the lovelorn owner and her eclectic guests.

This production will be a total feast for the senses, providing a combination of spectacle, athleticism, music, dancing, circus and, oh yes, the best aromas and tastes that the brain can conceive or the body enjoy."

Cascabel features Rick Bayless (Cook), Artistic Associate Tony Hernandez (Houseboy), Ensemble Member Thomas J. Cox (Suitor), Carlos Basile (Musician), Nicolas Besnard (Solitary Traveler), Shenea Booth (Solitary Traveler), Anne Goldmann (Gardener's Wife), Lindsey Noel Whiting (Daughter), Jesse Perez (Maitre'D), Alexandra Pivaral (Bathing Chica), and Jonathan Taylor (Gardener).

Designers include Artistic Associates Andre Pleuss and Rick Sims (Co-Composers & Sound Designers); Ensemble Member Mara Blumfield and Lijana Wallenda Hernandez (Co-Costume Designers); Production Affiliate Brian Bembridge (Scenic & Lighting Design); Maria DeFabo (Properties Designer); and Lee Brausell (Rigging Designer). The Dance Choreographer is Emilee Peterson. The Production Stage Manager is Rose Marie Packer.

Walgreens is the Presenting Sponsor of Cascabel.

Richard A. Ditton, Incredible Technologies is the Production Sponsor for Cascabel.

Cascabel, Dates, Times and Ticket Information are available on line at www.lookingglasstheatre.org; or by phone, (312) 337-0665; or at the Lookingglass Theatre box office located inside Chicago's historic Water Tower Water Works, 821 N. Michigan Ave. at Pearson.

The production runs through April 22, 2012: Tickets are $200-$225.

Ticket price includes hors d'oeuvres, dinner, and non-alcoholic beverages. Wine is not included in the ticket price, though several different wines will be available for purchase the night of the show.

Information on wine pairings, food allergies and dietary restrictions are available at www.lookingglasstheatre.org.

Many of the performances of Cascabel are sold out. ***Tickets are no longer available for March 21, 22, 23, 31, April 7, 13, 14, 18, 20 and 21.***

Lookingglass Theatre is located in the heart of the Magnificent Mile shopping district inside Chicago's historic Water Tower Water Works, 821 N. Michigan Ave. at Pearson.

Discounted parking is available for Lookingglass patrons at both the nearby John Hancock Center and Olympia Centre Self Park 161 E. Chicago Ave.

To purchase tickets, call the Lookingglass Theatre box office at (312) 337-0665 or visit lookingglasstheatre.org.

Don't Forget to Vote on March 20th!

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Juilliard-educated Elizabeth Roe is the soloist for one of the best known and most virtuosic of all concerti!

Symphony No. 4

Sunday, March 25, 2012, 4:00 p.m.

Trinity Christian College Ozinga Auditorium
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Adults $20-$25
Seniors $15-$20
Students $5
Children 12 and under free!

Purchase tickets at the door; by calling 708-802-0686; or online at www.southwestsymphony.com ...*Look for us on Facebook too!*

Please support symphonic music in our area by attending our fundraiser on Sunday, April 15th at Aviana Banquets! Call or visit our website for tickets.

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Everyday Sunday, March 11th through Sunday, March 18th

Also serving Irish Lamb Stew on St. Patrick's Day

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Spaghetti Dinner you will not want to miss

It will be the 43rd annual Spaghetti Dinner served at Trinity Lutheran Church , 97th & Brandt Ave. in Oak Lawn , IL (2 blocks west of Cicero).

The date is Saturday, March 10 dinner served from 4pm to 7 pm. A "Little bit of Italy " setting with checkered table clothes, candles on the table, first rate service, not to mention the food the Magnificent!

The menu features spaghetti made with made from scratch sauce, cooked by Gene Mondello and staff, meatballs, sausage, salad with homemade French dressing, the freshest bread, several desserts to choose from and beverages.

Tickets can be purchased at the door. For adults it is $7.00 and children 12 and under $3.50. Tickets for the meatballs or sausage are sold separately for $1.50 each.

The dinner benefits the young people from the church for their summer camp experiences.

Come and taste, come and see for yourself it is truly amazing! For more details call 708-422-0193.

Blue Island listed their special events for March

Oak Forest St. Patrick's Day Tea. Our teas typically include several choices of teas, small sandwiches, desserts, a short presentation and raffles, all within our beautifully decorated historic home, the Albee House. Reservations required.

This will take place on Saturday, March 10, 2:00 until 3:30 p.m.. The cost will be $15 and proceeds go to Blue Island Historical Society (Albee House), 13018 S. Maple Ave., 708-371-8546

A St. Patrick's Day celebration with "Houli," "Harps," and "Soda Bread!"Enjoy actor, writer, humorist, radio host, filmmaker and living legend among the South Side Irish, Mike "Houli" Houlihan. Listen to world-class celtic harpist Aislinn and enter to win the Blue Island Chamber 'O' Commerce's Irish Soda Bread Contest! Contact Dan O'Carroll, 708-388-1078 x30 for tickets and entry forms.This will take place on Wednesday, March 14, 7:00 p.m. at Christ 'O' Memorial Church, 2440 York St.

Stray Dog Theatre presents Farragut NorthThe political thriller movie, Ides of March, was written by Beau Willimon, however, this stageplay unfolds quite differently than the movie plot. The show is directed by Julie Zebleckis and the cast includes Blue Island resident Tony Carsella as Tom Duffy. This play is NOT for children, strong adult language and situations. Cost of tickets $14/$11, call 708-841-7396. The play starts March 16, 17, 18, 23, 24 and 25, Fridays/Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Middle School, 12320 S. Greenwood Ave.

Pancake BreakfastSponsored by the Music Boosters to benefit the band and choir programs at Eisenhower. Enter through the 'pool entrance' at the south side of the building on Saturday, March 17, 7:00 a.m. until noon. It a bargain for only $5 at Eisenhower High School, 12700 S. Sacramento Ave., 708-597-6300

There is a House Walk planning meeting if you are interested in including your Blue Island home on this year's September 16 House Walk. If so, you're invited to attend our planning meeting onTuesday, March 27, 7:00 p.m. at Blue Island Historical Society (Albee House), 13018 S. Maple Ave., 708-371-8546

Business & Community ExpoThe Chicago Southland Chamber of Commerce is hosting a two-day event, "Experience Chicago Southland." Friday, March 30: 3 - 7 p.m. Business-to-Business Exhibitors Showcase (for members & prospective members only); from 5 until 7 p.m.

Taste of the Southland Networking event (with member food vendors handing out food samples - cash bar); Saturday, March 31: (Business-to-Community, all are welcome); 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Business to Consumer Exhibitors Showcase (all community members are welcome). Call 708-957-6950 or visit www.chicagosouthland.com.The dates are Friday, March 30 & Saturday, March 31 at Tinley Park Holiday Inn Hotel & Convention Center, 18451 Convention Center Drive.

Traditional Egg DecoratingBring a dozen hard boiled eggs to decorate and join others for a fun morning at the Albee House. Natural dyes, decoupage and blown eggs will be demonstrated and available to try. Tea and scones will be served on Saturday, March 31, 10 a.m. for only $5. Please RSVP to 708-371-8546 at the Blue Island Historical Society Albee House, 13018 S. Maple.

Blue IslandChamber Installation Dinner

It's our 60th anniversary and we're celebrating in style. Business attire/black tie optional, three entrees, Champagne fountain and open bar, raffle prizes and more. Call 708-388-1000 or blueislandchamber@sbcglobal.net. It will take place on Saturday, April 7, from 6 - 9 p.m. at 115 Bourbon Street, Merrionette Park

The Civil War on the WavesPresented by Edward Finch, who becomes Captain Silas Terry, a federal Navy officer during the Civil War, this event is co-sponsored by the Blue Island Public Library and Ridge Historical Society. Tickets are required, call 708-371-8546 or pick up a free ticket at the Blue Island Public Library. This take place Thursday, April 26th, 7 p.m.Where: Blue Island Historical Society Albee House, 13018 S. Maple Ave.

Ike HikeThis 5K walk/run starts on Sacramento Avenue, winds through the beautiful Blue Island neighborhoods east of Eisenhower and finishes on the track. E-mail Amy.stevens@chsd218.org.The event is Saturday, April 28, 8:30 a.m. at Eisenhower High School, 12700 S. Sacramento Ave., 708-597-6300.

Take a healthy heart and circulation exam MetroSouth Medical Center is offering a special exam (a $250 value) for only $40.

It includes an EKG-monitored exercise test, blood cholesterol, triglycerides and blood sugar level, blood pressure, body mass index, cardiac risk factor analysis, and an ankle brachial index test. To reserve an appointment contact MetroSouth Medical Center at 708-597-2000 Ext. 5615, Main Lobby, 12935 S. Gregory St., Blue Island

Join us for Bingo at Palos Park Public Library

Join us to play After School Bingo at the Palos Park Public Library on Thursday, March 29th at 4:30 pm. Children five and up are invited to play an hour of bingo and win fun prizes. The library is located at 12330 Forest Glen Blvd., Palos Park, IL. No registration is required. For more information call the library at 708) 448-1530.

The Oak Lawn Garden Club will present a special program

Starting From Seed is a program presented by Glenn Grosch on Thursday, March 22nd, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. at Oak View Center 4625 W. 110th StreetOak Lawn, IL. Glenn has been at the Chicago Botanic Garden, teaching staff since 1997. His program will focus on specific steps for success in starting from seed. Glenn will cover all we need to know for "luck" with seeds.

Come to the meeting and hear about the Oak Lawn Garden Contest which is open to all residents of Oak Lawn and is held during the month of May.

VOTE

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Candidate for Judge
4th Judicial Sub-Circuit
Cook County
Vote Democratic

Burke Statement on Budget Address

State Rep. Kelly Burke (D-Evergreen Park) released the following statement in response to Gov. Pat Quinn's recent Budget Address: "While I would have liked for the governor to provide more detail on his vision to restore financial health to Illinois in his budget proposal, I am encouraged by his acknowledgment of our state's budget crisis and the dire need to make tough but fair cuts.

To achieve economic recovery, our leaders must finally address the spending problem and take responsibility for the way taxpayer money is spent. "I believe the governor was on target when he emphasized the importance of compromise and collaboration in finding solutions to our budget issues.

With $9 billion in unpaid bills, substantial increases in pension costs and a looming Medicaid crisis in the billions, it is more important than ever to reach across the aisle and put the public's well-being ahead of politics. I am pleased that the governor's office is participating in bipartisan, bicameral working groups to stabilize the pension system and restructure Medicaid.

"The recent economic decline has spared almost no one. Taxpayers throughout Illinois have had to tighten their belts and it is time for state government to do the same. State agencies should not expect to automatically receive the same funding they received the previous year. They will have to defend their budgets and compete for access to limited resources. We face serious challenges and difficult decisions in crafting the Fiscal Year 2013 budget, but these challenges can be met by meaningful prioritizing of spending.

"The governor's budget address is only a starting point. The House is continuing to implement last year's bipartisan process to determine a realistic revenue projection and spending cap.

In the upcoming weeks, it is the Legislature's job to reach out to constituents, businesses, local officials and state agencies to hear their thoughts and ideas about how to proceed." For more information, to weigh in on legislation, or for assistance with state programs or services, please call Rep. Burke's constituent service office at (708) 425-0571.

ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Kelly Burke
State Representative
36th District
kburke@kellyburkerep36.org
District Office
5144 W. 95th Street
Oak Lawn, IL 60453
708.425.0571
fax 708.425.0642
Capitol Office
266-S Stratton Office Bldg
Springfield, IL 62706
217.782.0515
fax 217.558.3741
Paid for by The Friends of Kelly Burke

Advice for dealing with power outages now and in the future

Attn: Townships, cities Villages, please read!

Generac offering helpful tips to residents living in the path of the storm-battered Midwest and South so they aren't left in the dark

·Millions of residents affected by tornadoes and severe weather that has ravaged the South and Midwest; and the millions of residents on the East Coast that could be affected by this powerful storm system:

·Experts: Generac, a leading manufacturer of power generation products since 1959.

1.Duane Nelson, spokesman for Generac, is available for phone and satellite interviews about what people should do to prevent power outages before and after the storm and how generators can help keep people safe.

2. Local Generac Dealers in your market are available for live or taped on-camera or phone interviews to discuss where residents can get a generator to keep them safe during the storm, demonstrate how to properly use it, and discuss how it could help people in a potentially dangerous situation.

Generac generators can help in dangerous situations by:

Keeping lights on so residents can see dangerous debris.

Keeping furnaces running so residents can stay warm.

Keeping refrigerators running so food and medication aren't spoiled.

Keeping the Internet connection on so residents can stay connected, work from home, and monitor the storm.

·Generac spokesman Duane Nelson will also discuss long-term solutions to storm-related power outages such as installing a Generac stationary backup generator.

·A Generac stationary backup generator is powered by the home's existing natural gas or LP fuel supply, and kicks on within seconds of a power outage, eliminating any power loss for homes with standby generators. It stays on until utility power returns.

·Immediately and by appointment: Duane Nelson is available for phone or satellite interviews. By appointment:

Generac Dealers in your area are available for live or taped on camera or taped interviews

Oak Lawn Montessori School
Oak View Center - Room 8
4625 West 110 Street • Oak Lawn, Il
Pre-school & Kindergarten
3-6 Years Old
ABC 1/2 Day Extended Day 5 Hrs & Full Day Classes Available CAT
Open Registration
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Andrew Byrne Hodorowicz, Candidate for Illinois State Rep – 35th District, wishes you a
HODOROWICZ STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Happy St. Patrick's Day!
We NEED EXPERIENCE in Springfield.
We DESERVE the best the 35th District has to offer.
LET'S COMPARE - 35th District Candidates

	Hodorowicz	Hurley	Martin
Pension Experience	Management Director of Local 134 Pension Fund (Pari-Mutuel Clerks) OVER 95% Funded	NONE	12 Year Member of the Chicago Fire Department Pension Fund - approving benefit increases when pension fund OVER 70% UNDERFUNDED
Experience in Springfield	Chief Financial Officer worked on gaming and racing legislation with Illinois legislators and lobbyists	NONE	NONE
Financial/Budget Experience	Chief Financial Officer & Performance & Compliance Auditor with Auditor General of the State of Illinois in Springfield/Chicago	NONE	NONE

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IBEW Local 134 endorses Hodorowicz

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 134 endorsed Andrew Byrne Hodorowicz's candidacy for Illinois State Representative of the 35th District.

IBEW Local 134 is one of the most powerful local unions in the Chicago-land area and Illinois with 14,254 members. "I am proud to have the strong support of IBEW Local 134 and its 14,000+ members," said Hodorowicz. "I got into this race to fight for working class families, small businesses, and to advance programs that will stimulate the economy and create good paying jobs in Illinois."

Hodorowicz's experience as a Chief Financial Officer, Auditor for the Illinois Auditor General and a family man have equipped him with the knowledge to make tough decisions in Springfield and put him in a unique position to understand what working families and small businesses are going through. "I am the only candidate with the experience and business integrity to defend our working class values in Springfield", continued Hodorowicz.

"I will be a strong advocate for working families, labor, and small businesses both on the campaign trail and in the halls of the State Capitol."

"Andy's economic message really resonates with working families here in the 35th District", said Campaign Spokesman Joe Hynes. "Working class families know Andy will fight for them in Springfield and will advance progressive economic solutions to create jobs and grow the economy." "Andy is the only candidate with a depth of financial and business experience.

The other candidates have no experience," continued Hynes. "Andy's strong grass roots support is due to the fact that he is the only candidate in this race strong enough to defend the Democratic economic agenda; pro-working family, pro job creation, and pro small business."

Worth Library announces online Career Cruising

Worth Public Library cardholders can now access an online career guidance and planning system called Career Cruising.

Career Cruising is designed to help users find the right career, explore education and training options to prepare for it, and build an employment portfolio, including a customized resume. Patrons can go to www.worthlibrary.com and click on Career Cruising and will be prompted to enter their Worth Library card number.

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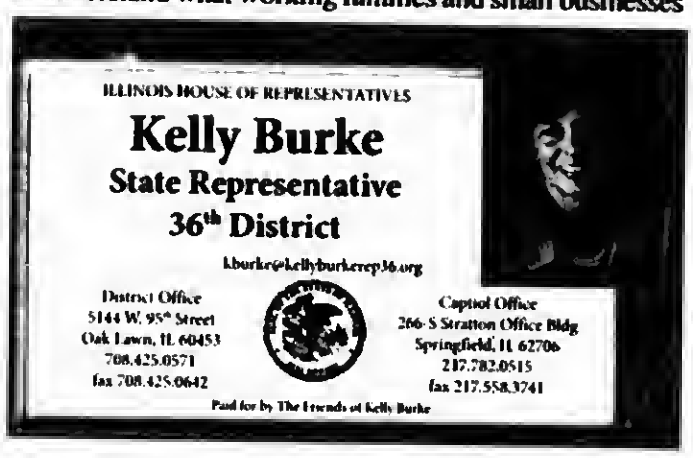

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Candidate for Illinois
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LET'S COMPARE - 35th District Candidates

	Hodorowicz	Hurley	Martin
Pension Experience	Management Director of Local 134 Pension Fund (Pari-Mutuel Clerks) OVER 95% Funded	NONE	12 Year Member of the Chicago Fire Department Pension Fund - approving benefit increases when pension fund OVER 70% UNDERFUNDED
Experience in Springfield	Chief Financial Officer worked on gaming and racing legislation with Illinois legislators and lobbyists	NONE	NONE
Financial/Budget Experience	Chief Financial Officer & Performance & Compliance Auditor with Auditor General of the State of Illinois in Springfield/Chicago	NONE	NONE

Punch #63
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Shopping Locally can hold down Property Tax Bills

by Dan Patlak, Commissioner, Cook County Board of Review

Every community has their own collection of small businesses, many of them family owned and operated. We consider them as fixtures in our neighborhoods and it is. painful to see them struggle in this tough economy. They face relentless competition from big box stores and on-line shopping. Shoppers are always looking for bargains and local merchants find it difficult to fight a pricing war. Loyalty to community and friendly service are important characteristics of the successful local business, however, you have another important reason to shop locally: supporting your local businesses will keep your property taxes down.

It's easy to understand that sales taxes collected locally will help your local government, but property tax help is more complicated. Residential property owners and businesses share the property tax burden. The higher the assessed value, the more you pay in property taxes. Commercial property owners have a higher level of assessment than residential and will pay two and half times as much for the same market value of property. This variation in assessment is a Cook County phenomenon and puts tremendous pressure on our Cook County businesses that are close to a bordering county. That is why the effort of Cook County Board President, Toni Preckwinkle, to bring down the sales tax rate is so important.

Commercial property is valued according to the income that it produces, so when struggling businesses in Cook County close, the property value and the amount of taxes paid for that property could be reduced. The assessed value of a commercial property is largely determined by the rent that is collected by the property owner. When a storefront is vacant, the rent revenue stream is diminished. Since the taxing bodies are not lowering their levies, all the property owners that are left pay the lost tax revenue.

For example: if a five-store strip mall that has five businesses paying an equal amount of rent then loses two businesses, the property owner can lose 40% of his income and be eligible to apply for a 40% reduction in his assessed valuation for that property. Pay attention to those empty storefronts in your community. We are all paying their taxes.

So when your local Chamber of Commerce encourages you to buy locally, remember that driving out of town to save a little money now may cost you later in your property tax bill. Save your local stores and save yourself some property tax costs.

Dan Patlak is the 1st District Commissioner of the Cook County Board of Review (Property Tax Appeals) Our Annual Report is available cookcountyboardofreview.com For questions about this essay call (312) 603-3644

Chicago Kiwi Club supports Park Lawn

Chicago Kiwi Club hosts dinner and musical for Park LawnMembers of the Kiwi Club of Chicago are taking reservations for 3rd Annual Dinner and Musical Play "Gypsy" to benefit individuals with developmental disabilities at Park Lawn.

According to the Drury Lane description of "Gypsy" attendees can expect a show that is winner of three Tony Awards and is considered by many critics to be the greatest American musical ever written. "Gypsy "is based on the memoirs of Gypsy Rose Lee, a famous burlesque stripper. This show tells the story of Rose, an overbearing stage mother who is determined to break into the big time by pushing a vaudeville career onto her two daughters.

The show will take place at the Drury Lane 100 Drury Lane Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181 on Sunday, March 25, 2012, and beginning at 3:00 pm with dinner at 4:00 pm. Those interested in attending can contact Ruth Banas at (219) 836-5387 to reserve your tickets.

The Kiwi Club of Chicago is a group of current and retired American Airlines flight attendants. They have been connected with Park Lawn from the start in 1955 when several Kiwi members volunteered to help teach the children enrolled in Park Lawn's classes.

The Kiwi Club of Chicago Dinner and Musical will benefit Park Lawn, a non-profit agency, located in Chicago's southwest suburb that provides vocational services, supported employment, adult developmental training, and residential services to individuals with developmental disabilities.

This is the time to pick up a Republican ballot and keep Dan Patlak on the Board of Review.

Dan Patlak with wife, Dulce and son, Teddy (10)

Dan Patlak

REPUBLICAN FOR COMMISSIONER, BOARD OF (TAX) REVIEW

FINALLY... AN ELECTED OFFICIAL WHO KEEPS HIS WORD

PROMISES MADE

In 2010 Dan Patlak became the first Cook County Republican to defeat an incumbent Democrat in 15 years.

PROMISES KEPT

- ✓ Served as the first FULL TIME Board of Review Commissioner
- ✓ Initiated on-line assessment appeals so property owners can file complaints from their homes
- ✓ Kept Suburban offices open
- ✓ Professionalized staff with mandatory continuing education
- ✓ Been the featured speaker at dozens of seminars and has trained thousands how to appeal their assessments
- ✓ Promoted transparency by producing the first joint Board Annual Report
- ✓ Worked as a taxpayer advocate as the twice elected Wheeling Township Assessor

PAID FOR BY CITIZENS FOR DAN PATLAK

St. Baldrick's Day at Brother Rice

Brother Rice High School will host our sixth annual St. Baldrick's Day event on Tuesday, March 13, from 7:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. in the North Gym. Our Brother Rice family and friends are invited to join us as we "Crusade for a Cure" for childhood cancer. Over the past five years, the Brother Rice family and friends have already raised $264,000 for St. Baldrick's Day; that's over a QUARTER-MILLION DOLLARS!!. We'd like to break the $300,000 mark this year; if you would like to help us reach this goal, please follow the directions below to register as a shavee:

1. Go to the St. Baldrick's Foundation website to register at stbaldricks.org

1. Click on the blue "Participate at this Event" link.

2. Click "yes" on the Private Event Participation prompt.

3. Log-in (past participants should use their log-in info from last year; new participants will need to create a profile)

**Make sure to click all applicable areas to complete the registration procedure.

4. Once you have registered on-line, you will need to complete and submit a signed paper participant agreement.

**Please note that we must have a participant agreement on file to shave a head.

Brother Rice students can pick up green participant agreements at the Student Activities office, or you can download and print one at the link below:

https:www.stbaldricks.org/file/get/f/b5d9c3be-d42c-4c76-8c34 737f8e978a41/n/2012_Participant_Agreement.pdf

Please drop off or mail your participant agreement to: Brother Rice High School, ATTN: Becky Pacetti, 10001 S. Pulaski, Chicago, IL 60655.

For more information, please e-mail at bpacetti@brrice.org.

What's happening in Morgan Park

Get the Most out of Your Morning Walk! Running

Excels, 10328 S. Western Avenue is sponsoring a 7 am group walk (4 to 6 miles) on Saturday, March 24, as a neighborhood sponsor of the community-wide Work Out to Wipe Out Domestic Violence Benefit Day.

Join other walkers by making a suggested donation of $25 to A New Direction Beverly Morgan Park, a nonprofit counseling and advocacy agency which serves victims of domestic violence, and is funded entirely thorough individual donations.

Their services are provided at no charge to the client. (Hydration stations will be provided at various locations throughout the walk.) For more information call 773-629-8587 or visit excel@runningexcels.com.

Beverly Yoga Center Sponsors the Support of Domestic Violence Awareness Effort.

On March 24, the Beverly Yoga Center, 1917 W. 103rd St., will partner with the Morgan Park Junior's Work Out to Wipe Out Domestic Violence Benefit Day. The effort will raise domestic violence awareness and funds (suggested donation of $25) for A New Direction Beverly Morgan Park, a nonprofit counseling and advocacy agency serving victims of domestic violence.

The Beverly Yoga Center will provide a 2:00-3:15pm Yoga class which will incorporate slow and mindful movements that will lead you into a relaxed and peaceful state of being. Alice Markel will instruct this slow, meditative, calm practice, perfect for all persons wishing to slow down.

For additional information, beverlyyogacenter.com.

Get a little extra from your morning yoga!

Donna Wilkinson of Yoga with Donna Wilkinson, has partnered with the Morgan Park Juniors on Saturday, March 24, Work Out to Wipe Out Domestic Violence Benefit Day.

Make a suggested $25 donation to support A New Direction Beverly Morgan Park, a nonprofit counseling and advocacy agency serving victims of domestic violence, and take part in a 1 hour, 9 am until 10 am Yoga class.

Dress comfortably and bring a mat so you can experience warm up movements with guided breathing, followed by slow moving postures that increase vitality and energize body, mind, and spirit.End with a guided deep relaxation that puts you in a wonderful place of contentment and serenity.

This class will take place in the Demonstration Room at the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences, 3857 W. 111th St.

For more information, call 773-881-3240.

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Come hear an expert from the U.S. Department of Labor discuss the education and skills employers are looking for, and how you can increase your value in the job market.

Saturday, March 10, 8:30-11 a.m.

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Building M, Moraine Room 2
Details at *morainevalley.edu/AdultSuccess/career.htm.*

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12-100A

9000 W. COLLEGE PKWY., PALOS HILLS, IL 60465-2478

The Book of Mormon

Tony Award Winner for Best Musical

Broadway In Chicago and the producers of the new musical THE BOOK OF MORMON, winner of nine Tony Awards® including Best Musical, announced that single tickets for THE BOOK OF MORMON in Chicago went on sale only to American Express Cardmembers March 2, 2012 at 10 a.m. and will remain on sale through March 15, 2012. Tickets will go on sale to the general public on March 19, 2012 at 12:01 a.m. at the Bank of America Theatre (18 West Monroe) box office only until 7:00 a.m., Ticketmaster.com and Ticketmaster phone lines will be available starting at 7:01 a.m. The remaining Broadway In Chicago box offices: Oriental Theatre (24 West Randolph), Cadillac Palace Theatre (151 West Randolph) and the Broadway Playhouse at Water Tower Place (175 East Chestnut) are open from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

THE BOOK OF MORMON features book, music and lyrics by Trey Parker, Robert Lopez and Matt Stone. Parker and Stone are the four-time Emmy Award-winning creators of the landmark animated series, " South Park ." Tony Award-winner Lopez is co-creator of the long-running hit musical comedy, Avenue Q. The musical is produced by Anne Garefino (South Park, South Park: Bigger Longer and Uncut, Team America: World Police) and Scott Rudin (The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo; Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close; Moneyball; The Social Network; True Grit; Greenberg; It's Complicated; Fantastic Mr. Fox; Julie & Julia, Doubt; No Country for Old Men; There Will Be Blood; Reprise; The Queen; Margot at the Wedding; Notes on a Scandal; Venus; Closer; Team America: World Police; I Heart Huckabees; School of Rock; The Hours; Iris; The Royal Tenenbaums; Zoolander; Sleepy Hollow; Wonder Boys; Bringing Out the Dead; South Park: Bigger, Longer & Uncut; The Truman Show; In & Out; Ransom; The First Wives Club; Clueless; Nobody's Fool; The Firm; Searching for Bobby Fischer; Sister Aet; The Addams Family), choreographed by Tony Award-winner Casey Nicholaw (Monty Python's Spamalot, The Drowsy Chaperone) and is directed by Nicholaw and Parker.

THE BOOK OF MORMON is the winner of nine Tony Awards, including Best Musical, Best Score (Trey Parker, Robert Lopez, Matt Stone), Best Book (Trey Parker, Robert Lopez, Matt Stone), Best Direction (Casey Nicholaw, Trey Parker), Best Featured Actress (Nikki M. James), Best Scenic Design (Scott Pask), Best Lighting Design (Brian MacDevitt), Best Sound Design (Brian Ronan) and Best Orchestrations (Larry Hochman, Stephen Oremus); the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Musical; five Drama Desk Awards including Best Musical, Best Music (Trey Parker, Robert Lopez, Matt Stone), Best Lyrics (Trey Parker, Robert Lopez, Matt Stone), Best Director (Casey Nicholaw, Trey Parker) and Best Orchestrations (Larry Hochman, Stephen Oremus); four Outer Critics Circle Awards, including Best Musical, Best Score (Trey Parker, Robert Lopez, Matt Stone), Best Actor in a Musical (Josh Gad) and Best Director (Casey Nicholaw, Trey Parker) and the Drama League Award for Best Musical.

THE BOOK OF MORMON features set design by Scott Pask, costume design by Ann Roth, lighting design by Brian MacDevitt and sound design by Brian Ronan. Orchestrations are by Larry Hochman and Stephen Oremus. Musie direction and vocal arrangements are by Stephen Oremus.

The Original Broadway Cast Recording for THE BOOK OF MORMON, winner of the 2011 Grammy Award for Best Musical Theater Album, is available on Ghostlight Records.

TICKET SALES INFORMATION for December 11, 2012 March 3, 2013 performances

*AMERICAN EXPRESS CARDMEMBER PRESALE: Friday, March 2 at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, March 15, 2012 at 11:59 p.m. Central Time; available through Ticketmaster online, phones and outlets along with all the Broadway In Chicago box offices

* PUBLIC ON SALE: Monday, March 19, 2012:

* 12:01 until 7:00 a.m. Central time, at the Bank of America Box Office only (18 W. Monroe, Chicago) exelusive Bank of America Theatre Box Office On-Sale

* 7:00 a.m. Central time, Tieketmaster online, phones and outlets as well as the Bank of Americea Theatre Box Office

* 10:00 a.m. Central time, available at all remaining Broadway In Chicago box offices: Oriental Theatre (24 West Randolph), Cadillac Palace Theatre (151 West Randolph), Broadway Playhouse (175 E. Chestnut) are open from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. Central time.

Tickets will continue to be available at all Broadway In Chicago Box Offices (24 W. Randolph St., 151 W. Randolph St., 18 W. Monroe St. and 175 E. Chestnut), the Broadway In Chicago Ticket Kiosk at Water Tower Place (845 N. Michigan Ave.), the Broadway In Chicago Ticket Line at (800) 775-2000, all Tieketmaster retail locations (including Hot Tix and select Carson Pirie Scott, Coconuts and fye stores), and online at www.BroadwayInChicago.com. Prices range from $45 - $115.

A seleet number of premium seats are also available. Groups of 15 or more can call (312) 977-1710 to purchase tickets.

In addition, there are 20 tickets held for each performance that will be sold through a drawing two and a half hours prior to each performance. Details of this program will follow closer to performance dates.

The Touching Tribute

ALWAYS... PATSY CLINE

Written by Ted Swindley

Starring Heather Beck as "Patsy Cline"

"A Song Filled Valentine" – The Los Angeles Times

The hugely popular musical play telling the story of legendary country singer Patsy Cline and her most devoted fan, ALWAYS... PATSY CLINE kieks off Theatre at the Center's 2012 season. Based on a true story of this unparalleled pioneer for female performers and a fan from Houston she befriended in a Texas honky-tonk, the production previews February 23, opens February 26 and runs through April 1. ALWAYS...PATSY CLINE will be directed by Brian Russell. Russell, making his Theatre at the Center debut, is the former Artistie Director of American Theater Company and Director of the 1996 Chicago Premiere of ALWAYS...PATSY CLINE whieh transferred from Northlight Theatre in Evanston to a lengthy commercial run at Chicago's Apollo Theater.

Also making her Theatre at the Center debut, newcomer Heather Beck will star as "Patsy Cline". Beck has received rave reviews for her performances as "Patsy Cline", starring in A CLOSER WALK WITH PATSY CLINE at the Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre in Lancaster, PA as well as at the Circa 21 Dinner Playhouse in Rock Island, IL. The Quad Cities Times raves "Beck shines with a true reproduction of Cline's music" and the River Cities Reader proclaims "Beck's singing is stunning." Two-time Jeff Award Winner Janelle Snow stars as "Loulse".

Written and originally directed by Ted Swindley, ALWAYS... PATSY CLINE has enjoyed great success over the United States, including a popular run Off-Broadway. One of the most produced musicals in America aecording to American Theatre Magazine, ALWAYS...PATSY CLINE has also been enjoyed by audiences internationally in Canada, the UK and Australia.

ALWAYS... PATSY CLINE is a tribute to Patsy Cline's true friendship with Louise Seger, a fan from Houston. Having first heard Cline on the "Arthur Godfrey Show" in 1957, Seger became an immediate and avid fan of hers. In 1961, when Cline went to Houston for a show, Seger and her friends arrived early for a show and met Cline. The two women struck up a friendship and remained pen pals until Cline's untimely death in a 1963 plane crash at the age of 30.

This musical play offers fans who remember Cline while she was alive a ehance to look back, and give new fans an idea of what Cline was like and what she meant to her fans. The title comes from the closing in all of Patsy's letters to Louise – "Love always, Patsy Cline." Complete with humor and true emotion, this 1960s tribute includes many of Patsy's unforgettable hits such as Crazy, I Fall to Pieces, Sweet Dreams, and Walking After Midnight.

Janelle Snow's Chicago stage credits include The Crowd You're In With at the Goodman, Spare Change at Steppenwolf, Suddenly Last Summer (Jeff Award) with Eclipse Theatre, Only the Sound (Jeff Nomination) at Chicago Dramatists, Flung and The Trip to Bountiful with American Theatre Company; Five Women Wearing the Same Dress (Jeff Award), Auschwitz Lullaby (Jeff Nomination, After Dark Award) and Lips Together, Teeth Apart, all at Circle Theatre. Her film appearances include Ca$h, Death of a President, The Watcher, New Port South and the award-winning comedy short The Widower and her television appearances include Boss, The Beast, ER, Early Edition and Turks.

The Artistic Team, led by Theatre at the Center Artistic Director William Pullinsi, features Direction by Brian Russell and Musical Direction and Orchestrations by William A. Underwood. The design team includes Scenic Designer Jack Magaw; Lighting Designer Emil Boulos; Sound Designer Barry G. Funderburg; Costume Designer Brenda Winstead, Wig Designer Kevin Barthel, and Props Designer Elizabeth Fandrei. The Stage Manager is Rebecea Green, the Technical Director is Ann Davis; and TATC's General Manager is Richard Friedman.

On Thursday, March 15 Theatre at the Center will present a Crazy for Country Dinner/Theatre event. The cost is $50 for Dinner & Theatre. The pre-show dinner at 5:30 p.m. is conveniently located right across from the theatre lobby. This is followed by the 7:30 p.m. performance.

Performances are Wednesdays and Thursdays at 2:00 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m.; Sundays at 2:30 p.m.; and select Thursday evening and Saturday matinees. Individual ticket prices range from $38 - $42. Season subseriptions for the full 2012 season are available for only $145 - $155.

To purchase season tickets, please call the Box Offiee at 219.836.3255. Individual tickets are also available by calling the Box Office or Tiekets.com at 800.511.1552. Group discounts are available for groups of 11 or more and gift certificates, perfect for all special occasions, are also available.

For more information on Theatre at the Center, visit TheatreAtTheCenter.com.

Tuta Theatre Chicago celebrates 10 years

Opening the season with Fulton Street Sessions, a world premiere cabaret-style production developed and written by Artistic Director Zeljko Djukic. Fulton runs Thurs. thru Sun. until March 25. Fulton Street Sessions is a cabaret style production with a collection of sketches, some funny other just ok. The musical numbers are great and the acting is superb.

Enjoy a light night out with very little undertone negativity, well I'm exaggerating. This is a great work of art and I am sure you will appreciate the creativity of the cast members and co-founders of Tuta.

Fulton Street Sessions is a company devised work in the form of a collection of short scenes, musical numbers and dramatic interludes making the performances stand out as to the work they put into it. Prices start at $12 one hour before show time. Visit www.tutato.com or call 847-217-0691.

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Impulse Buys Trip Kids Up When Saving

(NAPSA)-An important part of helping kids learn to save and spend wisely is teaching them to resist impulse buying.

Impulse buying starts young. Spur-of-the-moment spending-suddenly buying something wanted or needed-distracts more than half of all kids (53 percent) from saving to buy something special, found a recent poll by the Northwestern Mutual Foundation's financial literacy website, www.themint.org.

To help their children develop sound financial habits, parents may want to learn what motivates them, and help build plans around such key motivators.

When asked about what helps them stick with a savings goal, the majority of respondents (69 percent) agreed that it is "putting away a little of my allowance or paycheck each week." The good news for parents is that they can play an active role on this front, helping kids to bridge the gap between intentions (financial goals) and behavior (financial habits).

Parents can help kids identify a goal and a process-such as automated savings-to meet it. Impulse buying was not the only distraction to saving uncovered by the poll. The results also showed that kids feel "it takes too long to save that much money" (28 percent), and for some kids the distraction is "falling behind and feeling like I can't catch up" (13 percent).

Teaching kids why it's important to avoid splurging today to build up savings for tomorrow helps them understand how to set and stick with financial plans.

While impulse purchases were the biggest distraction to saving, there were some differences between boys and girls. In fact, girls are more than twice as likely as boys (67 percent versus 27 percent) to be deterred from a long-term goal by the allure of something they want or need. Boys, on the other hand, were more likely to be impatient in reaching their goal: Half (51 percent) of the boys surveyed said they get distracted because "it takes too long to save that much money."

More girls than boys (84 percent versus 46 percent) prefer an automated approach to savings, saying that an allowance or paycheck directly deposited into savings helps them stick with their savings goal. Boys, however, prefer to write down the goal, and track their saving and spending (44 percent for boys versus only 6 percent for girls).

For more pointers on developing sound financial plans, visit www.themint.org and http://www.northwesternmutual.com.

Impulse buying starts young.

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Learning Opportunities During School Recess

(NAPSA)-Schools are closed. It's a snow day. It's the winter break or the summer vacation. You've watched TV, played video games, baked cookies. Now what? Schools are closed for several more days.

But a break from school doesn't have to be the equivalent of a learning-free time for kids.

For children who have been struggling in school, a school recess can be their opportunity to catch up on key skills and feel more confident when they head back to class. For students who do well, it's an opportunity to keep their enthusiasm high for learning.

Parents can play a key role in reinforcing learning on an ongoing basis. Here are some tips, suggested to make sure that every holiday is a good balance of free discovery, play, leisure and learning for kids.

Read. Everyone has his or her favorite book, so read them to each other. It's fun for the older kids to read their favorite childhood books to their younger siblings. Act out your favorite scenes for the enjoyment of everyone.

Play games as a family and, for some quiet time, as individuals. Some mind-engaging activities include board games, crossword puzzles, Sudoku, jigsaw puzzles, coloring, finger painting, watercolors, scrapbooking.

Keep up the lessons. Check those spelling words-if there aren't any from school, assign your own. Practice math facts. Read the next chapter in the social studies book.

Practice. Practice. Practice. Workbooks and learning kits can help fill in the gaps and provide the practice needed to excel in school. For example, supplemental education companies like Sylvan Learning provide a wide variety of exercise books that include fun, teacher-reviewed, age-appropriate games and activities. These resources offer chapter books with grade-appropriate vocabulary, flash cards, CDs and games that can equip families with fun, effective and grade-appropriate learning tools during the holidays.

Keep writing. As a family, keep a holiday journal. Have everyone write a few lines each day about important and not-so-important events. The weather, the rainfall, the consecutive sunny days, the growth rate of the tomato plants. Favorite movies, TV shows, sporting events. People you've visited or who have visited you. Neighborhood news and events. New friends. School plans for next year.

Try to keep up normal routines. Yes, the snow throws everything off, and that's okay. It's good to take a break (or have one thrust upon you) from time to time. But try to keep bedtimes, mealtimes, study times and other important personal routines (medications, for example) as close to normal as possible. When you know schools will reopen again, start to get back into the swing of things right away.

Organize. Take this found time to organize notebooks, planners, backpacks and study areas at home. Make sure everyone's up-to-date on assignments that will be due when school starts again.

Keep it informal. You don't have to re-create a classroom experience at home. You shouldn't, as a matter of fact. Kids will soon "get it" that they can be learning new things, remembering old ones and using their knowledge as a simple matter of course. Keep up the holiday fun. Just keep up the learning, too.

A recess or day off from school is no excuse to put kids' brains on hiatus. It's for a different kind of learning.

For additional resources and information, visit www.randomhouse.com/sylvanlearningbookstore.

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SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 38 | Number 18 | March 20, 2012

Evergreen Park, Hickory Hills, Justice, Oak Lawn

Evergreen Park approved storm water detention basin

by Matt Mayer

Officials approved an ordinance at the March 5 Evergreen Park Board of Trustees meeting for an exchange agreement between the village and Evergreen Park LLC (EVP), a Delaware limited liability company for the former Evergreen Country Club property west of the B&O Railroad tracks to California Avenue. Mayor James Sexton said this would be an additional storm detention basin for the development on the former golf course. There was some change in the placement of this and that's why you, the board, need to agree to this again. There is currently one basin on the east side of the tracks; this will be an additional detention basin, for a total of two, said Sexton.

The fee owner of 49.46 acres of property between Western Avenue and the B&O Railroad tracks is EVP and the village is the fee owner of approximately 45.807 acres of property between California Avenue and the B&O Railroad tracks.

Other highlights: an alcoholic liquor ordinance amending the following sections of a chapter of the municipal code as follows: hours of operation, license classifications, fees and limitations of the alcoholic liquors was approved.

Licensed premises hours of operation during which time alcoholic liquors may be sold, delivered consumed or offered for sale are as follows: Class A, AA, B and D - 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. the next morning except an 11:00 a.m. opening on Sunday with no package liquor sales after midnight. Class C, and CC, shall be open from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 midnight except an 11:00 a.m. opening on Sunday. Class E, F, G, and H 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 midnight except for an 11:00 a.m. opening on Sunday. The annual license fee schedule varies from $200.00 to $2,000.00 except Class ENTL, which is a limited entertainment per day license and is $10.00 per day.

(Front row left to right) Floyd; Trustee Struzik; Trustee Pinion; Carie Ganser; Trustee Higginson; Trustee Sutton, Trustee Cecott; Bill Cronch (back row) Village Clerk Altar

Special Olympics thanks Bridgeview

by Jan Glaz

Both the Village of Bridgeview and the Village of Bridgeview's Public Works Department were recipients of a 'special' thank you from Special Olympics Illinois at the Board of Trustees Meeting held on March 7th. Carie Ganser, spokesperson and athlete, bestowed the honors when she approached the podium and expressed how grateful the Special Olympics are to Bridgeview for their aid in donating the dump truck and driver, Floyd, for the Rubber Ducky Derby event, and for their contact Bill Cronch, who works for the Village. She announced that the Special Olympics Rubber Ducky Derby has been around for six years and is one of their biggest fundraisers. In 2011 the Special Olympics raised $264,000 and sold 34,000 ducks. Carie stated, "Because of your generous donation you are helping me and all of 27,000 Special Olympics athletes be all we can be. Please continue your support any way you can. Thanks again Bridgeview."

The next race is scheduled for August 9 in the Chicago River at Michigan Avenue at 1pm. You can adopt a Duck for Special Olympics Illinois by going to www.duckrace.com/chicago.

Three motions carried before the meeting adjourned: The RFQ Committee related to seleeting a contractor for Toyota Park recommended retaining Total Facility Maintenance, Inc., as Toyota Park's Cleaning Service; Trustee Norma Pinion made a motion to establish the week of March 4th through March 10th as National Severe Weather Awareness Week and Trustee Claudette Struzik of the Building, zoning & Economic Development made a motion of acknowledgment of the Chicago Southland Convention and Visitors Bureau as the Village of Bridgeview's Convention and Visitors Bureau of record, for the marketing and promotion of the tourism industry. Illinois is one of only a few states with a tourism grant program. Property tax or taxpayer dollars are not involved in any funding of the Chicago Southland Convention and Visitors Bureau.

HICKORY HILLS PUBLIC WORKS MAY BE AUTHORIZED TO ISSUE TICKETS

by Jan Glaz

Hickory Hills may soon vote on the issue of the Public Works Departments ability to write tickets. After a discussion by the Mayor and Board of Trustees on March 8th, a motion was carried to put the item on the agenda. Public Works employees have been doing inspections and are very knowledgeable about any illegal connections occurring in the Village. Because of their experience they would be best suited to issue a citation and collect any photographic evidence, instead of merely reporting it for follow up.

Another interesting discussion occurred when Village Attorney, Mike Cainkar, reviewed the legalities involved in a request to open a "Cash for Gold" store in Hickory Hills as it applies to the Precious Metal Dealer's Ordinance. Attorney Cainkar mentioned that the business must establish record keeping, report things they buy to police and they cannot disassemble or melt items removing identifying marks; all items must be kept for a prescribed period of time along with documentation that states the name and identification requirements of the seller. This is important if police suspect stolen goods. Also, a precious metal dealer must not buy anything they suspect might be stolen. .

Information was brought forward about "Cash for Gold" businesses in Burbank. The Village had problems with individuals who burglarized homes coming into Burbank to dispose of the stolen goods. The individuals would be gone before the goods could be traced and there were no records kept. When questioned about the operation of pawn shops Attorney Cainkar replied that if a pawn shop were to do this type of business they would have to comply with the Metal Dealers Ordinance license. Mayor Howley offered that a couple of Aldermen expressed interest in doing follow ups with existing businesses regarding licensing fees; a count of how many similar businesses there are, and any other aspect in regards to the ordinance. "We're not necessarily in a rush with this," said the Mayor.

During the "open to the public" portion of the City Council Meeting consultant, Priya Patel, from Ambit Energy, a leading energy company that saves money on electric and gas bills approached the City Council.

Mr. Patel informed the board that Ambit Energy is an alternate to the Energy Aggregation Programs. He stated that their program can save 18% on the supply portion to the electric bill to 100%, costs nothing to join, and has a generous reward program with no contracts or cancellation fees. More information can be obtained from the following www.bnn.joinambit.com.

For more information about Ambit Energy e-mail at bnn.ambit@gmail.com or call 708-218-5682.

Driver Safety Program

The Defensive Driving Program sponsored by AARP will be offered at OCS, 3450 W. 97th St., Evergreen Park, IL 60805 Thursday & Friday, April 12 & 13 at 9:00 A.M. until 1:00 P.M. Attendance on both days is required.

As class size is limited, register as soon as possible. This refresher course reviews rules of the road for the mature adult. Sign up for the class in person or mail check made payable to AARP (including your name, address and phone number) to the Office of Citizens' Services at above address.

Fee for AARP members is $12; nonmembers, $14. Be sure to bring your AARP card to first class for verification. In addition to updating your driving knowledge and skills, you may be eligible for a discount on auto insurance after completing the course.

Village View

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FAR SOUTH EDITION

Volume 10 | Number 6 | March 20, 2012

Oak Forest, Orland Park, Tinley Park

Orland Park recognizes founder and CEO of Cooper's Hawk Winery and Restaurant

by Jan Glaz

On Monday, March 5th, at the Village of Orland Park City Council Meeting a resolution was presented to Tim McEnery, the founder and CEO of Cooper's Hawk Winery and Restaurant, by the Village President Daniel J. McLaughlin and the Board of Trustees commending Tim McEnery for his vision, determination, leadership and allegiance to Orland Park. Tim McEnery is a native of Orland Park who began a career in hospitality at age eleven as a dishwasher and worked his way up, becoming a restaurant manager while attending Marist High School. He earned his bachelor's degree in Restaurant and Hotel Management from Purdue University. McEnery learned about wine production, tasting room retail operations and the operational aspects of running a winery at Lynfred Winery. He chose Orland Park to implement his flagship location Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurant, 15690 South Harlem Avenue.

Accolades include being featured on Windy City Live, Fox's Indy Live, 190 North and Check, Please! Tim McEnery personally delivered to the 2009 Presidential Illinois Inaugural Gala in Washington D.C. the Cooper's Hawk Blanc de Blanc sparkling wine exclusively selected for the First Lady's Toast. Cooper's Hawk has been recognized with over 150 awards for excellence and was named UIC's 2011 "Entrepreneur of the Year" and Crain's Chicago Business Class of 2011 "Top 40 Under 40."

All on the same night: Bids for the purchase of Pool Pumps opened February 24 and a bid was received from Controlled Environmental Systems, Inc. of Orland Park at a cost of $66,075.00 installed, but due to the 6 to 8 week delivery time the Village had to move quickly on the item to have them delivered and installed by May 15, 2012. At the March 5th Committee Meeting the item was reviewed and recommended for approval by the Parks & Recreation Committee and then referred to the Village Board of Trustees for approval, all on the same night. The funds will come from the Machinery and Equipment Pool Fund; because $50,000 is budgeted for this item the board also approved a budget adjustment of $16,075.00.

A final item of interest is the agreement between William Filan and Smith Dawson and Andrews, both employed by the village to provide intergovernmental affairs assistance at the state and federal levels. The Board approved the Village Manager to execute an agreement based on a 12 month budget with Smith Dawson and Andrews of Washington D.C. in the amount of $36,000 and William Filan of Chicago, IL in the amount of $36,000. The funds for consultants were budgeted for FY12

Oak Forest: Ready to Reforest

by Jan Glaz

Mayor Kuspa opened the Oak Forest City Council Meeting on March 13th and announced the receipt of a grant awarded to the City of Oak Forest in the amount of $20,000 for reforestation. "We hope we can stretch this grant with a little in-house work from now until 2015," said the Mayor. The City plans to begin planting in the fall of 2012 and into the spring of next year. The goal is to extend using in-house labor and to replant up to 200 trees. The Mayor is looking forward to receiving two checks, one from the Mayor's caucus portion of the grant and another from the Illinois Department of Activity. When queried about an update for the Lighting Grant, the Mayor replied, "As you may have noticed the council chambers are a little bit lighter all the way around, we have completed lighting upgrades here in City Hall."

A Resolution carried to adopt a revised PACE Drug and Alcohol Policy and Testing Program for the Oak Forest Community Bus. Clerk/Collector Scott Burkhardt explained that from time to time the village adopts a revised resolution for Alcohol and Drug testing. He stressed that this ordinance revision affects only the employees who are directly part of operating the community buses.

Two agreements were approved by the City Council before the close of the meeting: An approval pertaining to construction and engineering for the replacement of the box culvert under Waverly Avenue on the Midlothian Creek, where a hole is growing once again. The Public Works Director informed the city council that the project must move forward. Alderman Wolf asked for a time-line and was informed that there are requirements with part of the Grant in terms of paper work and documentation but the intent is to be under construction this summer and have it completed before fall.

Prior to the approval of an agreement with Manhard Consulting, Ltd., Mayor Kuspa announced to the Alderman, "I generally let staff take the lead on many of the issues, but this is something I am extremely passionate about and I think that you should know that I ask you to support this agreement." The Mayor commented that his passion is the economic development of the City of Oak Forest. Manhard offers advice based on what is going on in other communities, problem solving and available Grant money that the City can apply for. Manhard Consulting is working in conjunction with Public Works to apply for a Grant that will pay for the engineering of flood control. "This is huge for the City of Oak Forest, and the City of Midlothian, and other South Suburban Communities," said the Mayor

Tinley Park Public Library introduces new programs

The Tinley Park Public Library Board of Trustees will meet on Wednesday, March 25, 2012 at 7 p.m. in the library boardroom. Meetings are open to the public. The minutes are posted on the library's web site at www.tplibrary.org. For additional information, please call 708.532.0160, ext. 3. The library is located at 7851 Timber Drive.

LIBRARY HOLIDAY CLOSINGS The Tinley Park Public Library will be closed on Friday, April 6, 2012 and Sunday, April 8, 2012 for the spring holidays. For more information phone 708.532.0160 x3. The library is located at 7851 Timber Drive. Our website is www.tplibrary.org.

THE RULES OF GOLF The Tinley Park Public Library will host The Rules of Golf on Saturday, April 7, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. to noon. Are you ready for the spring and summer golf season? Brush up on the rules and fundamentals of golf at this 2-hour workshop with caddy and golf enthusiast Tony Karwoski. Participants will receive a rule book and other handouts to improve their game and handicap. Registration begins March 24. Phone 708.532.0160, ext. 3. The library is located at 7851 Timber Drive. Our website is www.tplibrary.org.

GARDENING WITH HERBS The Tinley Park Public Library will host Gardening with Herbs on Monday, April 9, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. The Prairie Godmothers will share their tips and tricks for great gardening with herbs, indoors and out! Learn the easiest herbs to grown in the area and how to use fresh and dried herbs in the kitchen and other parts of the home. Take home tips, techniques, and even a few recipes. Registration begins Mareh 26. Phone 708.532.0160, ext. 3. The library is located at 7851 Timber Drive. Our website is www.tplibrary.org.

CARE TO COMPOST The Tinley Park Public Library will host Care to Compost on Tuesday, April 17, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. Celebrate Earth Week by learning how to compost indoors and out with Chef Kate Bradley as she wears her master gardener hat. Have you ever considered using worms to compost your food seraps. She'll show you how to do it and much more! Registration begins April 3. Phone 708.532.0160, ext. 3. The library is located at 7851 Timber Drive. Our website

EDDIE KOROSA AND HIS BOYS FROM ILLINOIS IN CONCERT The Tinley Park Public Library will host Eddie Korosa and His Boys from Illinois in coneert on Sunday, April 15, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. Eddie and his boys are back to close our season with a rousing polka fest and more! This concert is sponsored by the Friends of the Tinley Park Public Library. Online registration begins April 5. Please register in person or by phone beginning April 6. Phone 708.532.0160, ext. 3. The library Our website is www.tplibrary.org.

Village View

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SOUTH SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 13 | Number 6 | March 20, 2012

Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

Palos Heights approves payment of library bonds

by Matt Mayer

The Palos Heights City Council at a recent meeting approved an ordinance calling for payment and redemption on the general obligation Library bonds series 2003, dated January 7, 2003 in the amount of $1,050.00 on June 1, subject to review and approval of the library's financial documents. A request to pay Pro-Temp of Illinois, Inc $80,000.00 for the City Hall HVAC renovation project was approved as well as a request to pay American Underground $28,876.30 for work completed on the McCarthy Road water main extension. A request to approved a bid from Standard Equipment Company for a Sewer Jet Truck for $202,810.00 less a $6,100.00 trade-in allowance for a total amount of $196,710.00 was approved subject to the approval of the 2012 budget.

The city council approved a request for the city attorney Tom Brown to prepare an ordinance for a special use in a B District to allow for the construction of a drive up kiosk for the pharmacy department at the new Jewel/Osco at 12803 S. Harlem Avenue. The petition was filed by parent company Supervalu Corporation of Eden Prairie, Minnesota. A request for Brown to draft an ordinance to vacate a portion of the 68th right of way which was approved by the Roads and Construction Committee on August 9,2011 was also approved as well as a request for Brown to review the city's cell tower leases and coordinate the renewal of their equipment in order to prepare for the repairs and painting of the Westgate water tower. A request to approve the renewal of the Blue Cross/Blue Shield medical insurance policy at a cost not to exceed the 2011 rates was also approved.

The city council approved requests to conduct the following "Tag Days": Park Lawn, April 6 and 7, Misericordia Heart of Mercy, April 27 and 28 and Palos Heights Police Department Special Olympics June 1. The following Walk/run events were also approved and are as follows: Palos Heights Recreation Department's Chocolate Chase Rabbit 5 K race on Saturday, April 27 at 9:00 a.m. - the race route is in the Westgate neighborhood. The American Cancer Society's Making Strides against Breast Cancer 5K Walk is on Saturday, May 19 at 9 a.m. and will commence at Trinity Christian College through the Navajo Heights neighborhood.

Mayor Robert Straz reminded residents of the referendum on the March 20 primary ballot regarding municipal electric aggregation.

Spring Tea Reservations

Tickets are on sale for the seventh annual Spring Tea on Sunday, May 6, 2:00 until 4:00 p.m., at The Center, 12700 Southwest Highway , Palos Park .

The tea includes tea sandwiches, sweets, and a variety of hot and cold teas, plus music, wildflowers, and an inspiring keynote presentation about the Spirit of Women by motivational speaker Pat McEnerney. Weather permitting, seating is planned both indoors and outside amidst the wildflowers.

Tickets must be reserved in advance and cost $25 per person. For reservations and furtber information, interested persons should call The Center at (708) 361-3650 or visit www.thecenterplaos.org.

Traveling through Turkey Luncheon

Traveling through Turkey will be featured at a luncheon at The Center, 12700 Southwest Highway , Palos Park , on Tuesday, March 27, at a 12 noon luncheon.

Nancy Mitchell and Jan Musil will show slides and tell of their adventures through Turkey, from modern Istanbul to Biblical Ephesus, where they were amazed by the antiquities they saw. Of special interest to their trip was a hot air balloon ride over the unique fairy chimney formations of Canakkale.

The luncheon begins at 12 noon , cost $15 per person, and requires advance reservations. For further information, interested persons should call The Center at (708) 361-3650.

Reiki

An introductory Reiki experience will be offered on Sunday, March 25, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at The Center, 12700 Southwest Highway, Palos Park.

Reiki is a gentle form of energy healing, reported to be especially beneficial for those suffering from physical or emotional pain.

Reiki practitioners led by Sharon Butler will offer their healing services to participants, asking a donation of $10 per participant. Advance registration is necessary, as the monthly Reiki program is limited to ten participants each month. Interested persons should call The Center at (708) 361-3650.

WomanTalk Discussion

The Center, 12700 Southwest Highway, Palos Park, will host its monthly WomanTalk coffee hour and discussion on Tuesday, March 27 from 10 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

Ladies are invited to join the discussion of Simple Abundance and other readings by Sarah Ban Breathnach.

There is no cost, but advance reservations are required. Call The Center at 708-361-3650.

Spiritual Companionship

Spiritual Companionship is available each Tuesday at The Center, 12700 Southwest Highway in Palos Park .

Spiritual Companion Kathy Fontaine guides a person in prayer, meditation, and dialogue. Fontaine has been trained at the Institute of Spiritual Companionship in Chicago and is known to the Palos community as a spiritual growth leader and former kindergarten teacher.

According to Fontaine, spiritual companionship is "holy listening." The cost of Fontaine's one-on-one service is $20 per hour, which she donates to The Center's camp scholarship fund.

For further information about Spiritual Companion ship appointments, interested persons should call The Center at (708) 361-3650.

SERTOMA BIG EVENT

Please mark your calendar and bring your appetite on Saturday April 28th, 2012.

Sertoma Centre's BIG Event 2012 - sponsored by SouthtownStar Newspaper and the Aileen S. Andrew Foundation, will be held a little earlier this year and that's a good thing. You won't have to wait so long for some delicious ribs, sensational chicken or firehouse chili. Where else can you go for $10 and have fantastic food, the excitement of watching firemen compete in a cook-off judged by sports celebrities? Dave Fleming the magician and juggler will perform on stage at 6:30 pm and live music will be provided by Sound Barrier. There's raffles and fun for the entire family. Please mark your calendar and join us on Saturday April 28th, from 5 – 9 p.m. at 115 Bourbon Street in Merrionette Park, IL.

If you are a firefighter or know someone who is a firefighter, then consider competing in the hottest firehouse cook-off in town. Trophies and prizes are awarded for each category: chicken, ribs, chili, and ethnic dishes. Chefs prepare sample size portions for 500 people and are reimbursed up to $500 for food expenses.

Become a BIG Event Sponsors and promote your business or services while showing your support of Sertoma Centre and the individuals with disabilities served. For more information about the benefits of sponsorship such as free publicity, ads, program book and event signage please contact the Advancement Department at Sertoma Centre at 708-371-9700 or go to www.sertomacentre.org.

Event information, fireman registration, sponsorship details available on the Sertoma Centre, Inc. website: www.sertomacentre.org or on Facebook & Twitter. Proceeds from the event benefit the almost 700 individuals with disabilities served by Sertoma Centre, Inc.

Sertoma Centre, Inc. is a nationally-accredited, not-for-profit agency that provides services to individuals with developmental, physical and emotional disabilities, and/or mental illness. For more information, to schedule a tour, volunteer or to make a donation, please contact Amy Chmura, Director of Advancement and Communications, (708)730-6206 or achmura@sertomacentre.org. at Sertoma Centre, 4343 West 123rd Street, Alsip, IL 60803. www.sertomacentre.org.

Village View

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B-MAC EDITION

Volume 6 | Number 6 | March 20, 2012

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Midlothian Investigates (JAWA)

by Jan Glaz

Approving an Ordinance to authorize execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement for the South Suburban Joint Action Water Agency (JAWA) was tabled at the February 12th Village of Midlothian Board Meeting. The Ordinance reappeared on the agenda March 14th, at the next Village Board Meeting, and after a short discussion, the City Council approved the ordinance. Faced with the rising costs of water, south suburban communities are banding together in an effort to explore all options and provide a safe, reliable, cost-effective source of water for their residents. JAWA, an intergovernmental cooperative is planning to own and operate a completely independent water system that would free member communities of the need to purchase water from neighboring towns or rely on dwindling groundwater supplies. It was noted that the JAWA organization is in a developmental stage. Mayor Stephens made a comment that no matter what happens there will be a cost and over time a bonding obligation. "For now, we may find that there will be some need for money to study it," said the Mayor.

The Mayor conducted an important public hearing at the meeting to seek public input relative to the National Pollution Diseharge and Elimination System Phase II (NPDES) Permitting Process. NPDES is an unfunded Federal mandate of the Clean Water Aet and involves the ongoing development and implementation of a series of five (5) years of storm water management activity to better eontrol the quality and quantity of storm water. An aetive plan eonsists of 6 measures: public education and outreaeh; publie involvement and partieipation; illicit diseharge deteetion and elimination; eonstruetion site runoff eontrol; post-eonstruetion runoff control and pollution prevention/good housekeeping.

Trustee Potempa delivered good news when he reported aeeeptance of a $7500.00 Grant. The village will apply the grant award to replanting trees in Midlothian at an approximate cost of $200.00 per tree.

The last item approved on the Consent Agenda listed the Village of Midlothian Committee appointments: Julie Wilkins to Beautification Committee; George Lombardo to Community Policing Committee and Bill Busking , Jr. to Community Policing Committee.

Who are the Crestwood Copsicles

by Jan Glaz

One round of applause followed another at the Crestwood Village Board Meeting on March 15th as Trustee Fowler, Mayor pro tem, paid homage to the Crestwood Fire and Police Departments. The Praise, recognition, and congratulations were bestowed upon the Departments by Mayor Stranezek and the Board of Trustees.

Recognifion was given to the Fire Department for their work, spearheaded by Assistant Chief Patriek Bruee, in securing grants. Previous grant money received from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program includes a grant awarded to the city in the amount of $650,000; a grant award in the amount of $175,146 and in the year 2011 a grant in the amount of $91,660. The direct benefit of these grants is to protect the health and safety of the public as well as the firefighters. All extra funds raised allow the village to expand their budget and provide more for the residents.

Mayor Stranczek and the Board of Trustees congratulated the Crestwood Police Department for their 'outstanding performance' in fund raising. The Crestwood Police Department participates in the worldwide Law Enforcement Torch Run to raise money and awareness for the Special Olympics. It was announced that the Police Force, a group of men and women made up of mostly part time employees, through their hard work are near the top in the state of Illinois. No easy feat when you consider all the police forces in the state of Illinois.

Commander Art Ronan suggested in 2010 that the Police Department partieipate in the Polar Plunge, where an individual raises money and then plunges into freezing lake water in the month of March. They decided to give it a try and formed their team "The Crestwood Copsicles". A group of 26 brave individuals then raised $14,653 and took the plunge. On March 3rd 2012, the Crestwood Copsicles were back and 48 people had raised money. The temperatures were in the lower 30's and the winds gusty, but the Copsieles took the plunge. They raised more money in this one event than any previous years total: $28,282.00.

Trustee Fowler at the end of this tribute offered an emotional and heartfelt personal thank you. His voice trembled, "Thank you for taking care of those kids it's a great honor. A lot of them don't have anybody. You should be very proud, every one of you."

Smith Village holds a culinary treat

Smith Village invites neighbors to Tuesday, March 27 free head-to-toe health fair and culinary treat. Learn about chronie disease management, fitness, nutrition and dementia.Seniors and their families interested in learning more about a myriad of health and healthy lifestyle topics are invited to a free health fair from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, March 27, at Smith Village, 2320 West 113th Place in Chicago's Beverly neighborhood.

March is National Nutrition Month and participants, who include Smith Village residents and staff, are encouraged to talk with a broad array of experts. Dr. Richard M. Marshall, an Oak Lawn dentist, will be on hand to offer tips on oral hygiene. As part of the fair, Trinity Health Exercise Physiology students will measure individuals' BMI (body mass index), heart rates and waist-to-hip ratios. And Angels at Home Health providers will offer blood pressure screenings, as well as answer questions about when to start thinking about relying on home healthcare services.

Diane Morgan, Smith Village's memory support coordinator, will talk one-on-one with caregivers seeking to better understand Alzheimer's disease and dementia, and will share tips on how to provide support while caring for themselves too. Sarah McNicholas and Kati Thompson, two of Smith Village's registered dieticians, will be available to answer questions on healthy snack options and will give away trail mix, granola bars and peanuts. There also will be coupons for yogurt, Cheerios and Splenda, a no-calorie sweetener. Health fair visitors are welcome to come and go during the four hours of programs. For more information, please call Smith Village at 773-474-7300 or visit SmithVillage.org.

Eighth graders (from left) Jose Velazquez, Jacob Zuiker and Namra Shafi work on measuring the diameter and circumference of a hula hoop in Megan Hills' math class at Nathan Hale Middle School in Crestwood as part of the various activities that took place to honor Pi Day.

District 130 serves up a slice of fun during PI day

Two middle schools in District 130 joined in on the national celebration of Pi Day, which is held every year on March 14. A day noted by math enthusiasts around the country, students took a break from their normal class routines to celebrate this special day in the world of math. Simply put, pi is the ratio of a eircle's diameter to its circumference.

Symbolized by the Greek letter ", pi is an irrational and transcendental number, meaning that its decimal numbers continue infinitely without repeating. Most people, however, shorten pi to 3.14 for basie math calculations, whieh is why Pi Day is celebrated on March 14. Seventh graders at Veterans Memorial Middle School in Blue Island honored the day by noshing on slices of pizza and taking turns tossing whip ereams pies into the faces of their favorite teachers.

Even principal Carrie Tisch and assistant principal Lorenzo Nevarez joined in on the fun by standing behind the student-designed board before being "pied" by enthusiastic students.

Over at Nathan Hale Middle Sehool in Crestwood, seventh and eighth graders took part in a variety of classroom activities including pi trivia, creating pi bead bracelets, participating in a pi memorization contest, decorating plates with pi designs and listening to songs with a pi theme.

Cook County School District 130 serves nearly 4,100 students at thirteen school sites. The district serves portions of the communities of: Alsip, Blue Island, Crestwood and Robbins.

President Obama wants to strengthen Medicare Rationing Board

by Grace-Marie Turner

President Obama is doubling down on one of the most dangerous provisions in his 2010 health overhaul law, the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) which will become Medicare's rationing board.

In his proposed budget, the president plans to give greater powers to the panel to cut Medicare spending even more deeply than his health overhaul law already does.

The IPAB is one of the most egregious parts of ObamaCare because it puts rationing of care on autopilot. The House of Representatives is slated to vote on a bill that would repeal the IPAB this month, but the legislation faces an uncertain fate in the Senate and an almost certain veto by the president.

Nonetheless, opposition to the IPAB crosses party lines. Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ), a top Democrat on health policy issues, has said he has no interest in defending the board: "I've never supported it, and I would certainly be in favor of abolishing it."

The IPAB is to be composed of 15 appointed officials who will have the authority to make cuts in Medicare payments if per capita spending exceeds defined targeted rates. The U.S. Constitution gives the power of the purse to Congress so that elected representatives can be accountable to the voters for their decisions. The IPAB would turn this principle upside down.

In creating the IPAB, the president and Democrats in Congress wanted to take difficult decisions about cutting spending on Medicare out of the legislative process. In so doing, they gave unprecedented authority to unelected experts to make Medicare payment policy involving hundreds of billions of dollars and impacting tens of millions of seniors.

The power is unprecedented because there is to be no judicial, administrative, or realistically, congressional review over its decisions. The IPAB is supposed to take decisions outside the political arena, but that violates Article I of the Constitution that puts spending decisions exclusively in the hands of elected members of Congress.

Even with its huge powers, the tools available to the IPAB to cut spending are limited. The board cannot make structural recommendations to improve how Medicare operates; it is barred from making changes that would modernize the program's outdated fee-for-service structure or change beneficiary incentives.

The only tool it will realistically have will be cutting Medicare payment rates for those providing services and medicines to beneficiaries. This will inevitably ration access to physicians and medical treatments.

Between 2013 and 2020, the health law directs the IPAB to achieve its spending-reduction targets through cuts to the Part D prescription drug program, Medicare Advantage, and skilled nursing facility services. Since the board is forced to reduce overall Medicare spending by focusing only on these relatively smaller segments of Medicare spending, the cuts would have to be very deep to achieve overall per capita spending reductions.

IPAB is the wrong approach. IPAB needs to be repealed, not strengthened. It should be replaced with market-oriented reforms that actually address the pernicious incentives now driving Medicare off a fiscal cliff.

A smarter approach would be to make changes to Medicare on the model of the program's Part D prescription drug program that cultivates individual choice, forces providers to compete to offer seniors the best value in health care, and provides a path to sustainability for Medicare.

Serious reform proposals that would give seniors more choice and control over their health coverage have recently been offered by Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI) and Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) and by Sen. Tom Coburn (R-OK) and Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC).\

Instead of one-size-fits-all government plans, individual seniors could purchase a health plan of their choosing from among competing plans. All of the programs would be structured to protect seniors who are older, poorer, and sicker. Seniors would be empowered to shop for coverage that best fits their particular medical needs. And Medicare would harness the same competitive market forces that have brought down prices and driven up quality in virtually every other sector of the American economy.

The president's budget goes in completely the opposite direction by strengthening its centralized government command-and-control approach. Instead of instituting reforms that would address the real cost problems in Medicare, he is funneling power to a select group of unelected experts who would surely make changes that could seriously compromise access to care and innovation.

Repeal of IPAB is the first step to clear the path for the modern reforms that put doctors and patients, not government bureaucrats, in charge of decisions.

Ms. Turner is president of the Galen Institute and a co-author of Why ObamaCare Is Wrong for America (Broadside/HarperCollins, 2011).

Ricardo A. Fernandez is running for the State Senate as a Republican in the new 18th District

Ricardo attended the first two years of high school at Oak Lawn Community High School and then next two years at Evergreen Park High School he graduated in 1984. He graduated from Moraine Valley Community College with an Associates of Science degree in 1987. He then graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago with a Bachelors of Science degree in physical therapy in 1989.

While working full-time, he returned to school to complete his Master of Health Science degree in physical therapy from the University of Indianapolis in 1992. While a full-time faculty member at Northwestern University, Ricardo completed his doctoral work research along with his doctoral level teaching responsibilities as part of the faculty. He completed his PhD in physical therapy in 2007 from Nova Southeastern University. Ricardo has been working as a physical therapist for the past 22 ½ years. He has been an adjunct instructor at Governors State University, Morton College and Oakton Community College where he has served as a clinical instructor for 75 students during their clinical affiliations throughout his career. Ricardo is a licensed physical therapist and certified strength and conditioning specialist and he is currently enjoying clinical practice.

He is an active member of Sons of the American Legion in Tinley Park, Squad 615. Served as a Guardian on ten occasions for Honor Flight Chicago where he has escorted 25 World War II veterans to see their National World War II Memorial in Washington, DC. Ricardo a member of the Patriot Guard Riders who welcome home outstanding members of our military. He has volunteered to help serve veterans at Manteno Veteran's Home.

Ricardo supports the Second Amendment and is an Endowment Member of NRA and Life Member of Illinois State Rifle Association. He is actively supporting youth education, law enforcement training, hunter education, conservation, firearms and marksmanship training and safety by regularly supporting Friends of the NRA. He is an Associate Member of the Fraternal Order of Police.

Ricardo married his wife, Gina in 1990, and they have lived together in the district for over 21 years. They have lived in their current Orland Park home since 1995.

Ricardo has received several awards including:

·The College of Health and Human Services Outstanding Clinical Supervisor from Governors State University in 2009.

·The Excellence in Teaching and Service Award from EsSalud in Lima, Peru, in August 2005.

ELECTION NOTES

As stated before the election, our advertisers helped to bring this newspaper free to the community readers. It is only right to make the announcement of the candidate to supported us with their advertising. The previous news release is for just that person.

We at Village View would like to mention our other supporters.

If you are taking a Republican Ballet for March 20th, please remember Peloquin for Congress.

Dan Patlak, our current elected official for Board of Tax Review.

If you are taking a Democratic Ballot, please remember State Representative Andy Hodorowicz, Candidate for the 35th District. Kelly Burke, State Representative, Incumbent for the 36th District and for Judges: Karen Lynn O'Malley, Circuit Court of Cook County, Gerald V. Cleary (Punch 150) and 4th Judicial Sub Circuit Terry Gallagher.

Justice paves the way for Red Light Cameras

by Jan Glaz

The Illinois Department of Transportation condit-ionally approved the installation and use of red-light cameras at eastbound and westbound 79th Street at 88th (Cork) Avenue. At the Village of Justice President and Board of Trustees Meeting, March 12th, the City Council approved an Ordinance amending chapter 6, motor vehicles and traffic, article VII, automated traffic enforcement of the Justice Municipal Code, in preparation for the installation of Red Light Cameras. An engineering plan will be provided by SafeSpeed LLC, Intelligent Traffic Systems. The company captures violations with images, processes citations and collects fines. Of interest is a study that was made of 5 busy intersections done prior to installation of photo enforced cameras. The study revealed that on average a motorist runs a red light every 20 minutes. The Village does not expect implementation of Red Light Cameras before June.

The City Council is also paving the way to partner with the Justice/Willow Springs Water Commission to integrate the sewer and water billing to insure collection of the past due sewer accounts. Monies owed would more than balance the city's budget. Trustee Ed Rusch commented that he understood once notifi-cation occurred and an arrangement with the water commission, the village would have the right to have water shut off until the sewer bill is taken care off. "I want to assure the public that this isn't going to happen overnight but it is a process, for as long as I can remember... Fortunately the board has decided to tackle this problem because there's a substantial amount owed," said Rusch.

Before the meeting adjourned Trustee Rusch announced requests for (4) new business licenses which the board of trustees approved: A home occupation license for Candlerco Solutions, 8651 S. 87th Avenue, this is for a business office for a broker working from home with a computer and phone; a home occupation license for Feathers Paws & Claws Pet Care Services, 7901 S. 87th Avenue; Classic Cuts Barber Shop, 8001 S 84th Avenue, and Davern's Tavern & Lounge, Inc., 8527 W. 79th Street, for operation of a Tavern. Currently there is no restaurant, but there is a plan to secure a restaurant license in the future.

Uncle Sam Gives Gift to Local Families Caring For Elderly Loved Ones

Unknown tax breaks for caregiving can save you a bundle!

More than three-fourths (78%) of the elderly who receive long-term care in the U.S. are getting that care from unpaid family and friends. These caregivers are trapped in an economic struggle -paying their own bills in addition to out-of-pocket expenses to care for an elderly loved one. In fact, a recent survey shows more than 40% of caregivers are spending more than $5,000 a year caring for a loved one. 47% of working caregivers report an increase in caregiving expenses has caused them to use ALL or MOST of their savings. That's why Uncle Sam provides tax breaks if you care for an elderly loved one - tax breaks many families don't know about.

"Whether you're providing care yourself, or you've hired a caregiver for an aging parent, you should take advantage of the tax breaks that are a true gift in these troubled economic times," says Peter Ross, co-founder and CEO of Senior Helpers, a national in-home care company, with offices in your city. "Even something as simple as taking Mom or Dad to the doctor can be a tax deduction."

Top Tax Breaks For Elderly Care:

Claim your parent as a dependent

·Your parent's income, excluding Social Security, must be less than the amount of the personal exemption. For 2011, the personal exemption was $3,700. This year's exemption rate is $3,800. Plus, you must provide more than 50% of a parent's financial support.

·If a parent lives with you, you can include a percentage of your mortgage and utilities.

·You can claim more than one parent as a dependent if both meet the income and support tests.

Deduct your parent's medical expenses

·If you contribute to a parent's health care expenses and pay the health care provider yourself versus giving your parent the money to pay, you may qualify to deduct costs, even if you can't claim the parent as a dependent.

·Nearly 100% of individual medical expenses can be deducted, including hearing aids and prescription medicines.

Mileage – including doctor appointments and out of town visits to a specialist Dental expenses including dentures and artificial teeth.

·To claim medical expenses, you must provide at least 50% of the parent's financial support, but you don't have to meet the income test.

·Deduction is limited to medical expenses that exceed 7.5% of your adjusted gross income. Qualified expenses include the cost of a nursing home, in-home health care, dental care and prescription drugs. You can include your own un-reimbursed medical expenses when calculating total costs.

"Caregivers have one of the most emotionally demanding jobs out there," says Ross. "It's so demanding that more than a third of surveyed caregivers have been forced to quit jobs, take early retirement, reduce hours or take a leave of absence to care for an elderly loved one. We'd like to be able to shoulder some of the burden of tax season and help put some money back in their pockets by pointing out some of the most overlooked deductions."

Other Caregiving Deductions Most Often Overlooked (Source: Aging Care)

Please note, it's important to check specific guidelines for qualifying expenses when filing your tax return (www.irs.gov).

Long-term health care costs people often overlook that you can write-off long-term care services and long-term care insurance depending on age.

Home improvements for aging adults installing wheelchair ramps, hand rails and grab bars in bathrooms are good examples of deductions. It doesn't matter if these improvements are in the senior's home or the adult child's home – as long as the improvements don't add value to the home, you can write them off.

Energy saving home improvements. High-efficiency furnaces, insulation, windows and even weather stripping are included.

For more specifics, visit www.energystar.gov.

Mortgage interest whether it's adult children or the senior's home loans, construction loans or home equity lines of credit they can all be deductions.

Estate tax on an inherited IRA - If you inherited an IRA from your parents, you could take a deduction for federal estate taxes paid on IRA income.

Charitable contributions you can deduct not only the value of items you donated to charity, but also out-of-pocket costs related to volunteering.

Tell this story with a local family struggling to care for an elderly loved one. Interview local senior care experts about cost saving ways to pay for care.

Other Ways To Cut Costs If Caring For An Elderly Loved One:

·Veteran's Benefits Veterans can earn up to $1,800 a month in VA pension money to pay for in-home care. Senior Helpers helps families find resources to get these benefits.

·Contact Your Local Area Agency on Aging to learn about government assistance programs that provide low income seniors, eligible for Medicaid, money to pay for in-home care.

Sources: Thompson, L. Long-Term Care: Support for Family Caregivers. Long-Term Financing Project., survey by caring.com, survey by Volunteers of America, National Family Caregivers Association, AARP, 2008, Aging Care, survey by National Family Caregivers Association, 2009

About Senior Helpers: Senior Helpers connects professional caregivers with seniors who wish to live at home as opposed to a nursing or assisted living facility. The company has nearly 300 franchises in 40 states and one Canadian province offering a wide range of personal and companion care services to assist seniors living independently with a strong focus on quality of life for the client and peace of mind for their families. Senior Helpers strives to be the leading companion and personal care provider that offers dependable, consistent and affordable home care.

For more information, visit: http://www.seniorhelpers.com/

Registration Open for Summer Adventures in the Dunes

Youth Camps Registration is now open for Dunes Learning Center's Summer Adventures in the Dunes Camps. The camps provide five days and five nights for children to explore Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. "Our camps are a combination of fun and learning," John Hayes, Executive Director of the Dunes Learning Center, said. "Kids have a great time exploring the outdoors, searching for salamanders, playing games, and learning about Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore." Summer Adventures in the Dunes Camps cost $290 per child and include all meals and overnight accommodations from Sunday afternoon to Friday morning. Dunes Discovery Camps for kids entering 4th through 7th grade will be June 17 to 22, June 24 to 29, and July 8-13th. ParKids Day Camps for kids entering 1st through 3rd grade will be July 9-13 and July 23-27. Space is limited and early registration is encouraged. Registration can be done online at www.dueslearningcenter.org. info@dueslearningcenter.org or call 219 395-9555 for more information. Summer camps have been available at the Dunes Learning Center for the past eight years. Activities include nature exploration, campfires, songs, swimming at Lake Michigan beaches, and various games, arts, and crafts.

The Dunes Learning Center is a non-profit organization established in 1998 in partnership with the National Park Service at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Dunes Learning Center is devoted to providing curriculum-based environmental education programs for schools throughout the Indiana Dunes region. Since it was founded, more than 60,000 children and others have participated in Dunes Learning Center programs. Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore is one of the nearly 400 units of the National Park System, ranging from Yellowstone to the Statue of Liberty. Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore includes 15 miles of the southern shoreline of Lake Michigan and 15,000 acres of beach, woods, marshes, and prairie in the northwest corner of Indiana . More than 2 million visitors come to this national park each year. More information can be found at www.nps.gov/INDU.

Tap into creativity of local business owners

Tour Fulton Market District, one of Chicago's last urban neighborhoods in transition Explore Fulton Market. Free. From noon until 5pm on Saturday, Meet urban pioneers who are artists and gallerists, fashion boutique owners and photographers, interior designers and home furnishings retailers, dance studio instructors and pet day care operators, as well as restaurateurs and food shop owners in the Fulton Market neighborhood. Tour

Chicago's original produce district situated between Halsted and Racine streets, Kinzie Street and Randolph Avenue. Ample free street parking and near new Morgan Street L Stop. To download a map or to plan tour to win prizes and to learn more, visit explorefultonmarket.com or call 312-526-3700.

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A Baking Breakthrough With Chocolate-Covered Raisins

(NAPSA)-While you may al_ready know about the winning ways of chocolate-covered raisins from your trips to the movies, you may not realize what award-winning treats you can turn out with the tasty snacks at home.

To help, the makers of SUN MAID Milk Chocolate Covered Raisins conducted a recipe contest, and you can try your hand at some of the winners, including:

Cowgirl Cookies
from the kitchen of Cindy B., Orland Park, Ill.
(Makes 3 dozen cookies)

2	sticks unsalted butter, softened
1	cup brown sugar
1/4	cup granulated sugar
2	large eggs
2	teaspoons vanilla extract
1 3/4	cups flour
3/4	teaspoon baking powder
3/4	teaspoon salt
1/2	teaspoon cinnamon
2	cups rolled old-fashioned oats
1	cup coconut flakes
1 1/2	cups SUN-MAID Milk Chocolate Covered Raisins
3/4	cup chopped pecans

In bowl of electric mixer, cream butter and sugars until light and fluffy. Add eggs and vanilla and beat well. In a separate bowl, combine flour, baking powder, salt and cinnamon; blend well. Add dry ingredients to egg mixture, beating on low speed just until combined. Add oats, coconut, chocolate raisins and nuts last, stirring until just blended.

Drop by rounded tablespoons onto ungreased or parchment-lined baking sheet, 2 inches apart. Bake at 350¡ F until golden brown around the edges, about 10-12 minutes (centers will be light). Transfer cookies to a wire rack to cool completely. Store in freezer in airtight container.

Raspberry Rugala Chocolate Raisin Cheesecake
from the kitchen of Carolyn H., Loomis, Calif.
(Serves 6-8)

Crust:

1 1/4	cups cinnamon graham cracker crumbs
	pinch salt
3	tablespoons sugar
1/4	cup unsalted butter, melted

Batter:

2	8-oz. bricks cream cheese, room temperature
3/4	cup sugar
1 1/2	teaspoons vanilla
1/2	cup sour cream
6	tablespoons milk
1	tablespoon flour
2	eggs

Filling:

3.5-oz.	package Sun-Maid Milk Chocolate Covered Raisins
1/4	cup chopped walnuts

Topping:

1/4	cup red raspberry jam or preserves

Directions:

Heat oven to 350F.

Crust: Stir together graham cracker crumbs, salt and 3 tablespoons sugar. Stir in melted butter. Press firmly onto the bottom and sides of a deep 9" pie tin. Bake 10 min.; remove from oven and set aside.

Batter: In a large mixing bowl, beat cream cheese on low speed of mixer until smooth. Always using low speed and scraping bowl and beater frequently, blend in 3Ú4 cups sugar; then vanilla, sour cream, milk, flour and eggs (1 at a time). Pour half of batter into crust. Dot the milk chocolate raisins and chopped walnuts evenly over the batter. Pour on the rest of the batter. Do not overfill. Bake at 3500 F for 30-40 minutes or until center looks cooked and is not too jiggly. Place on a rack and let cool 1 hour. Cover and chill completely in refrigerator; this will take several hours.

Before serving, carefully spread raspberry jam over the pie.You can find more recipes and nutrition information online at www.chocolateraisins.com or by calling (800) 369-7391.

Enjoy Fresh, Flavorful Fruit Year-Round

(NAPSA)-It may not be summer here in North America, but no need to miss out on the freshness of the season. Nutritious and delicious fresh nectarines, blueberries and other delights from Chile are available all winter long in your grocery store.

It's summer in Chile, where the climate, soil and water yield consistently high-quality fruit that meets the highest assurance standards in the world. That's good news, because natural fruits are not only good to eat, they're good for you. A half cup of blueberries packs a bounty of fiber, vitamin€, potassium and antioxidants into only 40 sweet calories. Eating blueberries may also help prevent cancer, heart disease and Alzheimer's.

Fresh fruits can satisfy a sweet tooth without adding unhealthy fat or excessive calories because fruits contain naturally occurring sugars in calorie-free plant fibers and water. They help you fill up without filling out.

Here's a great way to enjoy summer fresh nectarines and blueberries:

Fresh Chilean Nectarine and Blueberry Cobbler

1 2 /3cups flour
1 /2cup sugar, divided
6 Tbsp. butter, cut into pieces
1 1 /2Tbsp. baking powder
1 /4tsp. salt
3 /4cup heavy cream, divided
4 cups fresh Chilean blueberries
1 1 /2lbs. (6 medium) ripe Chilean nectarines, pitted and cut in eighths

Preheat oven to 350¡ F. In the bowl of a food processor, combine flour, 1Ú4 cup of the sugar, butter, baking powder and salt. Pulse until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Set aside 1 Tbsp. of the cream. Add the remaining cream to flour mixture; process until dough starts to form a ball, scraping sides of bowl as needed. Turn dough out onto a lightly floured surface; gently pat it together. Divide dough into eight 2-inch balls; flatten into rounds; wrap and refrigerate at least 20 minutes. In a shallow 21Ú2-quart baking dish, combine blueberries, nectarines and 3 Tbsp. of the sugar. Arrange dough rounds on top. Brush rounds with reserved cream; sprinkle with remaining 1 Tbsp. sugar. Bake until the filling bubbles and the topping has browned, about 50 minutes. Serves 8. Serve warm with ice cream, if desired.

Learn More

For more recipes, visit www.chileanfruitonline.com.

Sweet and natural, this Fresh Chilean Nectarine Blueberry Cobbler is a warm, comforting dish.

Lean, Sweet And Healthy

(NAPSA)-For a late afternoon snack, fruit is always best.

However, sometimes, a sweet treat can change the mood or make a down afternoon seem more up.

Although sugary snacks are surefire ways to crash moods and healthy eating intentions, the following two recipes from the book "TurboCharged Recipes: Delicious Fuel for Your Lean Fat-Burning Machine," by sibling co-authors Dian Griesel, Ph.D. and Tom Griesel, offer two healthful snacks to satisfy the urge for something sweet.

Coconut Macadamiaroons

8 ounces unsweetened shredded coconut
8 ounces almond flour (any nut flour can be used)
4 tablespoons macadamia nut oil
1 tablespoon sugar substitute

Combine all ingredients in a stainless steel bowl until well mixed. For each cookie, spoon a tablespoonful of the mixture onto a cookie sheet. Bake in a preheated 325-degree oven for about 6 minutes or until the cookies just start to get browned. Remove from heat and allow to cool on a wire rack.

Sweet treats don't have to be sugary.

Peanut Butter Dreams

1 egg, well beaten
1/3 cup chunk-style peanut butter
1 tablespoon soft sweet butter
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 tablespoon equivalent brown sugar substitute
3/4 cup finely chopped walnuts

Mix all ingredients except nuts together well. Shape into small balls. Roll in chopped nuts. Refrigerate until firm.

"TurboCharged" outlines an eight-step rapid fat-loss program that does not require aerobic exercise, supplements or special equipment. It explains why other diets and exercise programs can contribute to obesity. According to the auth_ors, age, body fat and scale weight don't have to keep you from achieving a lean, "TurboCharged" body.

The book is available from Amazon and wherever books are sold. You can visit the website at www.turbocharged.us.com.

Cooking Ideas

(NAPS)ÑThe makers of Sun Maid Milk Chocolate Covered Raisins conducted a recipe contest. Recipes and information are available at www.chocolateraisins.com.

* * *

Fruits and vegetables are healthful foods. For recipes and tips from the experts at Produce for Better Health Foundation, visit www.FruitsAndVeggiesMoreMatters.org.

* * *

ÒTurboCharged Recipes: Delicious Fuel for Your Lean Fat-Buming Machine,Ó by sibling co-authors Dian Griesel, Ph.D. and Tom Griesel, outlines an eight-step rapid fat-loss program that does not require aerobic exercise, supplements or special equipment. The book is available from Amazon and wherever books are sold. You can visit the website at www.turbocharged.us.com.

* * *

The healthy oils found in many salad dressings can help the body to better absorb key nutrients. If you must count calories, there are a number of reduced-fat and light options of salad dressings and mayonnaise available. For more information, visit www.dressings-sauces.org.

* * *

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Your Money

Saving The Dollar Bill

(NAPSA)-An increasing number of Americans have found a new way to save a dollar-or, at any rate, to save the dollar bill.

At Issue

That's because they're asking legislators to oppose the effort to take the dollar bill out of circulation and replace it with a dollar coin.

The dollar bill's supporters say such a switch would not only eliminate an American icon, it would cost businesses money. According to the experts at the economics research firm John Dunham & Associates, getting rid of the dollar bill would cost businesses about $200 million a year and lead to more than 4,000 job losses-and that doesn't even include additional capital expenses such as new cash registers, change-counting machines, cash drawers, larger safes and so on. There will also be costs to banks, money transfer companies and other financial firms.

The Expert's Opinion

"Essentially, this would be a tax increase on businesses from coast to coast," explained John Dunham. "Americans are already struggling with a poor economy, and forcibly removing the dollar bill from circulation for a dollar coin will only exacerbate these problems for business owners."

The Government Report

A Government Accountability Office (GAO) report appears to agree. It indicates "the cost of producing coins for a full replacement is never fully recovered during the 30-year analysis." Even without considering the cost of

Does the buck stop here? Most Americans oppose the effort to take the dollar bill out of circulation and replace it with a dollar coin.

producing, transferring, distributing, storing and managing dollar coins, the GAO estimate shows that the dollar coin would actually be a net cost to the government for at least the first 10 years.

The People's Preference

The potential switch is also unpopular. According to a study by Luntz Global, 97 percent of Americans believe the dollar bill is more convenient than the dollar coin.

What Some People Are Doing

Americans for George-a group of like-minded individuals, businesses and organizations seeking to ensure that the citizens of the United States maintain the ability to choose their preferred currency-has a number of ideas about how to save the dollar bill.

What You Can Do

To get more facts, sign a petition or learn about additional steps you can take, www.AmericansforGeorge.org.

Did You Know?

(NAPSA)When pets chew on inflexible items, such as bones or nylon toys, it can put them at risk for breaking a tooth. For proper pet oral health, veterinarians advise daily brushing or giving approved dental treats, such as Greenies. Learn more at www.Facebook.com/greenies.

* * *

This year, Pigeon Forge, Tenn., offers an innovative roller coaster, a 72-foot-tall balloon, plus Hollywood stars in wax and a salute to the Titanic. For more information, visit MyPigeonForge.com or call toll-free to (800) 251-9100.

* * *

The One Day Without Shoes event will raise awareness of the millions of children who donÕt have shoes. For every pair of shoes purchased from TOMS, the company will give a new pair of shoes to a child in need. To learn more, visit www.onedaywithoutshoes.com/learn-more.

* * *

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Hints For Homeowners

Facebook Is About Connecting With Friends, Sharing Pictures And...Buying Homes

(NAPSA)-Whether it's reuniting with old friends, sharing pictures or asking for recommendations, people are relying on Facebook more and more to manage their daily lives. According to Nielsen's State of the Media: Social Media Report, Americans spend more time on Facebook than any other website. With 800 million active users who average more than six hours a month on the networking site, it's no surprise that Facebook is affecting how we connect with other people, seek out advice and even buy homes.

"For today's home-buyers and sellers, one of the most convenient ways to identify, research and connect with a real estate professional is through Facebook," said Bev Thorne, CMO of Century 21 Real Estate LLC. "When you think about it, Facebook is all about relationships, a very important thing when you're searching for someone to guide you through one of the most significant moves you'll make in life."

Giving Homebuyers and Sellers Real Estate Tools Online

Today's new generation of homebuyers is increasingly turning to social networks to begin searches rather than walking into an office and seeking the help of a real estate professional. Whether they realize it or not, users are single-handedly making Facebook the latest word-of-mouth marketing powerhouse. These devoted users, 50 percent of whom return daily, aren't just sharing gossip and pictures with friends-they're asking for and sharing advice.

Buyers and sellers can rest assured-real estate professionals are taking notice of their desire to connect via Facebook. Realtors recognize the impact Facebook can have on their business and are putting more effort into their presence in order to connect with potential clients and develop relationships through the site, often through the use of specialized applications (apps).

For example, the CENTURY 21(r) Application for Facebook lets CENTURY 21(r) Brokers customize their landing page and connect with existing and potential new clients directly through Facebook. With information on current listings and homebuyer and seller tool_kits, the app provides people with all the information they need to start their homebuying or selling process, without ever leaving Facebook.

Tips for homebuyers and sellers using Facebook:

*Ask your friends for input. Facebook is a way to reach out to several friends and neighbors all at once to ask for their advice on local real estate professionals they'd recommend.

*Check out local real estate agents' Facebook pages. Before deciding whether or not you want to reach out to a real estate professional, spend some time on their Facebook page-it should give you some insights into their services and specialties.

*Pay attention to content. A sign of a reliable, knowledgeable real estate professional is that they regularly share local market news and trends while consistently engaging with their network.

*Look for additional resources. Many real estate professionals will offer tools, such as the ability to view current listingsandmortgage calculators, making Facebook your one-stop shop for real estate research.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/century21 to find an agent or begin your property search.

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Turning On The Tap To Save Lives

(NAPSA)-Waterborne illnesses are the second-leading cause of preventable childhood deaths in the world-killing almost 4,000 children every day. Fortunately, the UNICEF Tap Project is helping to provide safe, clean water to children around the world-and you can drink a glass to its success.

During World Water Week, March 19-25, dining patrons can pay $1 or more for the tap water they usually enjoy for free at participating restaurants. With $1, UNICEF can provide a child with access to clean, safe water for 40 days, or 40 children with access to safe water for one day.

"In communities without access to a safe water source and adequate sanitation, disease can spread with lethal swiftness," said President and CEO of the U.S. Fund for UNICEF, Caryl Stern. "Today, for too many of the world's children, clean water can mean the difference between life and death."

For the third year, Giorgio Armani Fragrances returns as national sponsor of the UNICEF Tap Project as part of its Acqua for Life campaign, to raise awareness and funds to help UNICEF improve access to safe, clean water for children worldwide. During the month of March, the company will donate $1 for each Acqua di Gi¯ for Men and Acqua di Gioia for Women spray cologne or gift set purchased in the U.S., and $1 for the first 100,000 people who "like" the Acqua for Life page on Facebook. Also, new to the program this year, for each 10-ml Acqua di Gioia Rollerball Eau de Parfum purchased in the U.S., the company will donate 100 percent of the retail sales price-up to $15 per item-to the U.S. Fund for UNICEF, while supplies last.

Since 2007, more than 10,000 UNICEF Tap Project volunteers have provided their time and creative solutions to build awareness and drive donations for water and sanitation programs in Belize, the Central African Republic, C™te d'Ivoire, Guatemala, Haiti, Iraq, Togo and Vietnam.

Once again, the project will benefit from promotional support by ZAGAT.com, OpenTable.com, Seamless.com and Yelp.com.

"In some parts of the world, clean water can mean the difference between life and death."

All print advertisements for the UNICEF Tap Project will feature the work of internationally recognized artist Tavis Coburn. A new public service announcement was directed by the international commercial director Brent Harris and supported by Egg Films of Cape Town, South Africa and Skunk of Los Angeles, Calif.

Supporters can learn more by visiting www.uniceftapproject.org.

Working in more than 150 countries, UNICEF provides children with health and immunizations, clean water, nutrition, education, emergency and disaster relief. Since 1990, more than 2 billion people have gained access to improved drinking water and 1.8 billion people have gained access to improved sanitation facilities. UNICEF has made a major contribution to this figure through its work with governments and partners around the world.

For more information, visit www.unicefusa.org.

Glamour On The Go

(NAPSA)-One of the latest makeup must-haves is making it easier to look glamorous on the go.

Currently, 50 to 60 percent of women don't have the time or expertise to apply eye shadow, but a revolutionary form of heat transfer technology is poised to change that. Eye Majic is a new instant eye shadow that is practically foolproof. It can be applied easily anywhere, at any time and without a mirror.

This new secret weapon lets you become your own makeup artist, helping you achieve a professional, polished look in seconds. The affordable eye shadow, which is already earning a loyal following everywhere from Hollywood to Paris, avoids the pitfalls of messy makeup application by eliminating the expense and clutter of the multiple brushes and pots required to achieve a professional look.

With Eye Majic, you can be red carpet ready in less than 30 seconds. Slip it in your purse, car, desk or travel bag for instant glamour on the go.

For more information, www.EyeMajicbeauty.com or call (888) 636-8878.

Moraine Valley to host medical presentation on sleep

Moraine Valley Community College will host a Medical Education Series presentation on "Sleep: The Gentle Tyrant" from 7 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, April 4, in the Dorothy Menker Theater in the Fine and Performing Arts Center, 9000 W. College Pkwy., Palos Hills. The event is co-sponsored by Northwestern Memorial Hospital and is free and open to the public.

Dr. Hrayr Attarian will lead this presentation that deals with facts about sleep and sleep disorders. Dr. Attarian is a neurologist at Northwestern Memorial Hospital and an associate professor of Neurology. He has written three textbooks on sleep medicine in addition to peer reviewed articles. Dr. Attarian is an active member of the American Academy of Sleep Medicine and the World Association of Sleep Medicine. He has contributed to 40 papers, 12 chapters, three books, and 30 invited lectures. His clinical interests include sleep disorders and sleep apnea.

For several years, Moraine Valley's Career/Health Sciences Programs and Northwestern Memorial Hospital have collaborated to host this Medical Education Series on a variety of health topics, including plastic surgery, concussions, mind-body pain management, cardiology, tobacco cessation, diabetes, urology, pelvic health, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and cochlear implants

Moraine Valley runners honored for academic performance

Two members of the Moraine Valley Community College men's cross country team earned 2011 Academic All NJCAA honors from the National Junior College Cross Country Coaches Association for their outstanding work in the classroom.

Jon Altman (Sandburg) and Phil Culbertson (Stagg) were recognized for academic achievement for the fall 2011 semester. Altman also was honored in 2010 as a member of the men¡¯s team designated as an Academic All America team.

The Moraine Valley cross country program has fielded 32 Academic All Americans/Academic All NJCAA since the program was reinstituted in 2000.

"These scholar-athletes are simply outstanding. They attend class full time, work part time, and excel as athletes and students. Their performance on and off the field speaks highly of them. I am very proud of their achievement. It is a tremendous honor for them and Moraine Valley," Coach Mark Horstmeyer said.

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America: A Nation In Pain

(NAPSA)-Chances are you're one of the 100 million Americans suffering from body pain. According to recent research, up to 90 percent of pain sufferers don't get the relief they're looking for with their current pain medication. So next time, rather than reaching for a pill, consider some of these misunderstood or overlooked pain remedies:

Physical Therapy: Physical therapy can be an effective way to alleviate all types of musculoskeletal and neuropathic types of pain. A primary goal of physical therapy is to help chronic pain patients become stronger.

In addition, physical therapy can teach people how to move safely and functionally in ways that they haven't been able to in some time-helping them to avoid injury or reinjury.

Exercise: A consistent exercise routine can help control pain. That's the word from Dave Endres, a physical therapist and cofounder of SPEAR Physical Therapy in New York City. He says exercising for just 30 minutes a day at least three or four days a week will help with chronic pain management by increasing en_dur_ance, muscle strength, joint stability and flexibility in the muscle.

Massage Therapy: Massage therapy is an effective part of pain relief and management because it can help reduce inflammation and swelling and soothe stiff, sore muscle, which ultimately relieves pain.

Stephanie Smith, Spa Director and licensed massage therapist at the Viana Hotel & Spa on Long Island, says that while physical therapy focuses on strengthening and stretching-sometimes with the use of mechanical methods, heat, and electric stimulation-massage therapy focuses on the muscles, soft tissue, and softening restricted tissue.

Topical Relief: Americans are steadily starting to adopt what the rest of the world had known about for years: topical pain relievers,

While most Americans still turn to over-the-counter pills to handle pain, other methods of pain relief are growing in popularity.

such as patches and gels, which are safe, effective methods for pain management.

Two of the latest developments are the Salonpas Pain Relief Patch and the Salonpas Arthritis Pain Patch. They are the first and only FDA-approved over-the-counter pain relievers approved for sale using the FDA's New Drug Application process. Clinically tested, they relieve mild to moderate pain for sore muscles, backache, sprains and strains, as well as joint and arthritis pain.

These Salonpas patches are manufactured using a new ultrathin comfort stretch technology, enabling them to stay in place and provide up to 12 hours of relief.

To learn more, visit the website at www.salonpas.us.

Take Care Of Your HealthBy Taking Care Of Your Mouth

(NAPSA)-The next time you visit the dentist, give yourself a pat on the back. Taking care of your mouth is vitally important to your overall well-being and may lower your risk for other health problems.

For example, periodontal disease has been linked to endocarditis (an infection of the heart lining). Bacteria from plaque can make your gums red and swollen, and bleed when you brush. The bacteria can then enter your bloodstream and infect other parts of the body, including the inner lining of your heart-particularly if you're already at high risk for a heart conditionStudies have also linked poor oral health to elevated levels of C-reactive protein that can lead to diabetes, stroke, heart disease, osteoporosis and other inflammatory diseases of aging.

Keep your oral health on track by brushing twice daily, flossing, changing your toothbrush every three to four months and eating healthy. Plan visits to your dentist every six months. The experts at Smile Brands Inc. suggest asking your dentist three questions:

What Should I Do About That Pain In My...?

If you are having any pain, ask about it. Your dentist will be able to point out anything on the surface during a regular cleaning and checkup, but you'll need to speak up if you're feeling something not visible. Identifying a concern when it's small can prevent a larger problem in the future, and also keep any potential infections from spreading to other parts of your body.

How Is Everything Besides My Teeth?

Ask about your gums. Plaque buildup on your teeth can lead to problems like gingivitis and periodontitis. You can also ask for an overall exam to look for issues like bone density, grinding your teeth or any lumps that are out of the ordinary.

Ask your dentist for some take-home to-dos.

What's My Homework?

To keep that clean-teeth feeling after you leave the office, ask your dental professional for some take-home to-dos. This could be a new brushing technique or a sample you've seen advertised. Such "assignments" can help keep your mouth in the best possible shape.

Smile Brands Inc. is the nation's leading provider of business support services to dental groups in the United States with affiliated dental groups operating primarily under one of three brand names: Bright Now! Dental, Castle Dental and Monarch Dental.

Who Has Fibromyalgia? It Might Not Be Who You Think

(NAPSA)-You've probably seen the many commercials for fibromyalgia drugs on TV. They usually feature middle-aged women describing unexplained aches and pains. Although fibromyalgia most often affects adults, it can also develop in childhood and go undiagnosed for years in patients who often suffer in silence.

According to the American College of Rheumatology (ACR), juvenile primary fibromyalgia - syndrome (JPFS) typically develops between the ages of 13 and 15, although the symptoms can develop much earlier. Children and teens with JPFS feel pain that interferes with daily life and often have difficulty sleeping. Although it's not entirely clear how many children are affected by JPFS, the ACR estimates that it is anywhere between 2 percent and 7.5 percent of children in North America and Europe.

The symptoms can be so severe that adolescents with JPFS miss a lot of time in school and withdraw from social activities. The Journal of Pediatric Psychology recently reported that the rate of homeschooling among teens with fibromyalgia was more than 10 percent higher than the national average of about 2 percent.

Because their symptoms are so vague, teens with JPFS are often told by physicians that they are experiencing growing pains or suffering from depression. What's worse, even once they are diagnosed properly, there are no medications approved by the FDA for the treatment of fibromyalgia in patients younger than 18.

Lynne Matallana, founder of the National Fibromyalgia Association (NFA), is all too familiar with the difficulties that teens with fibromyalgia and their parents face. "Very little research has been done on fibromyalgia in children and teens," Matallana said. "Current clinical trials, like the MyFi study for teenagers, help in the search to find a safe and effective treatment for JPFS."

Parents who are aware of a family history of fibromyalgia, especially among female family members, should be watchful for the signs and symptoms in their children. Blood relatives of patients with fibromyalgia have a higher prevalence of the disease and tend to be more sensitive to pain than the general population.

Because of the lack of treatment options for JPFS, clinical trials for potential drugs are currently under way to determine if they are safe and effective for teens.

The MyFi study for teens with fibromyalgia is currently recruiting patients at study sites across the United States. For more information on this research, please visit www.MyFiTrial.com or call (866) 692-1317.

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"Mowimy po Polska!"

JaVonna Smith, Francesca Castagna, Renee Jones

Three De La Salle student Athletes chosen to 2011-12 All GCAC Basketball Team

De La Salle Institute proudly announces that three student-athletes from its Lourdes Hall Campus for Young Women have been chosen to the 2011-12 All-Girls Catholic Athletic Conference Basketball Team.

Recognized for their excellence on the basketball court were seniors Francesca Castagna (Bridgeport), Renee Jones (Calumet City) and JaVonna Smith (Wrightwood) as they helped the Meteors to an 18-9 overall record and the Illinois High School Association's Class 3A De La Salle Regional championship. This marked the first regional title in women's basketball in De La Salle history.

Smith, a senior guard/forward, averaged 14 points per game as she also was selected the GCAC Player of the Year. Smith, who scored a career-high 30 points against St. Benedict during the 2011-12 season, scored 1,139 points in her four years of varsity competition at De La Salle.

Jones, a senior forward, averaged 10 points and 13 rebounds per game this season, while Castagna, a senior guard, averaged 5 points and 6 assists per game.

"Everyone at De La Salle is extremely proud of these young women and all they have accomplished as Meteors," De La Salle athletic director Tom White said. "Having three student-athletes on the All-GCAC Team, winning a regional and JaVonna's being named Player of the Year all in the same season is something in which everyone at De La Salle takes a great deal of pride."

De La Salle congratulates each of these young women on their accomplishments and wishes them every future success.

St. Xavier awards the Shield of St. Xavier to Mr. and Mrs. James Morris

James A. and Patricia A. Morris '83, Ph.D., will receive the Shield of Saint Xavier at the 27th Annual Saint Xavier University President's Scholarship Ball on Saturday, March 24, at the Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan Ave.

The Shield is awarded annually to individuals nominated by the University community and chosen by its Board of Trustees. "The Shield of Saint Xavier is our University's highest honor, awarded to recognize outstanding people for their enduring support of Saint Xavier's mission of academic excellence and social concern," said President Christine M. Wiseman, J.D.

"Jim and Trish Morris are among the most fervent supporters and generous donors in University history, and we are deeply pleased to bestow this honor upon them." The Morrises have a long and distinguished history with SXU. The Smith-Morris Quadrangle in the Chicago campus is named in their honor. They have made significant annual monetary gifts to underwrite and sponsor the Shield of Saint Xavier for the past eight years, given generously to the annual fund, and created a culture of giving among students through their matching support of the annual Class Gift program for the last 11 years.

They have also created a legacy gift to Saint Xavier University. Additionally, the Morrises have chaired the President's Club and the President's Scholarship Ball in the past.

Patricia served on the Board of Trustees from 2001 to 2010 and was vice chair from 2007 to 2010. The President's Scholarship Ball has raised millions of dollars for the Presidential Scholarship Program, which provides financial support to Saint Xavier's most deserving students. This gala event is open to the public and will be co-chaired by SXU Board of Trustees Chairman John T. Costello and Sally Clair. For more information or to make a reservation, please contact (773) 298-3748 or visit www.sxu.edu, keyword: ball. Media interested in attending the Ball should contact Karla Thomas at (773) 298-3937 or kthomas@sxu.edu

Children's Museum of Oak Lawn

Open Monday, April 9th, Easter Monday Closed Sunday, April 8th, Easter Day Reduced admission program for the museum: The Museum Admission Card allows you to purchase 10 admissions for just $5 each. The card sells for $50, which is a 17% savings off of single ticket admission. This is a great way for members to save, also, when they bring friends to the museum.

National Endowment of the Arts Program: · Tuesday's and Wednesday's join Karen for Story and Music Time starting at 11am. · Wednesday's join Nicole for Dance Time starting at 12pm · For more information call Oak Lawn Children's Museum (708) 423-6709 or barb.mcmillin@cmoaklawn.org

4th Grade Girls are Champions

CJB Fourth Grade Volleyball Champions
Front Row (from left): Macy Sherwood (Tinley Park), Kelsey Morrey (Orland Park), Emily Dykas (Orland Park), Katie Rost (Orland Park)
Second Row (from left) Grace Alles (Tinley Park), Alena Pedroza (Orland Park), Katie Juds (Orland Park), Teagan Sopczak (Tinley Park)
Coaches: Lisa Morrey and Anne Sopczak

The Cardinal Joseph Bernardin Catholic School (CJB) 4th grade girls' blue volleyball team finished a stellar season taking first place for the season in the St. Alexander's Volleyball League on March 10th at St. Alexander's School in Palos Heights.

The Lady Cardinals entered the playoffs with a perfect regular season record of 33 wins. Their winning streak continued through the finals and into the championship match in which they defeated Noonan Academy of Mokena winning two games of three.

Coaches Lisa Morrey and Anne Sopczak explained, "For most of the girls, this was their first exposure to volleyball. Ending the season and playoffs with 39 wins and just one loss highlights their talent, teamwork and dedication. They spent a great deal of time perfecting their serving, which contributed to many wins throughout the season. We couldn't be more proud of the girls!"

The Cardinal Joseph Bernardin School athletics program seeks to put Christian values into practice by, helping young athletes develop to the best of their abilities and to participate with dignity and grace. Please visit the school's website at www.cardianljbschool.com to learn more.

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Time Stands Still

For photojournalist Sarah Goodwin, happiness is rushing from hotspot to hotspot capturing images of global conflict. When she barely survives a bomb blast in Iraq, she's forced to return home into the care of her long-time lover, James.

She's caught off-guard by James's desire for family and by the simple domestic life pursued by Richard, her editor, and his much younger girlfriend, Mandy. Pressed to consider settling into a "normal" life, Sarah must confront her addiction to the drama and chaos of war.

From Pulitzer Prize winner Donald Margulies, Time Stands Still is a witty, intelligent look at what happens when ordinary life is refracted through the lens of war.

Time Stands Still presented at Steppenwolf until May 13, 2012 1650 N. Halsted St., 312-335-1650 Online ticketing available at www.steppenwolf.org.

The Sweetest Swing in Baseball is a Rebecca Gilman play

For its inaugural foray into Chicago theater, Step Up brings Chicago playwright Rebecca Gilman's' "The Sweetest Swing in Baseball" to life on March 23 through April 22 at the Athenaeum Theatre 2936 N Southport.

"After considering a number of scripts for our first production, I was drawn to Rebecca Gilman's riveting play and her honest, open characters that speak to everyday people in everyday life," said Step Up Artistic Director Elizabeth Antonucci. "Gilman brings such a unique approach to the portrayal of her characters by making them so real and relevant to what society is faced with. There is a very fine line between having success and being successful and this play is able to explore the various layers that define how one triumphs in the game of baseball and in the game of life."

The Sweetest Swing in Baseball opens Friday, March 23, at 8:00 pm at the Athenaeum Theater, 2936 N. Southport and runs through Sunday, April 22, 2012.

Tickets are $32.50 general admission, $25.50 for students/seniors and $20 for group sales. To purchase tickets visit http://www.athenaeumtheatre.com or call 773.935.6875.

The Convert is a must see at the Goodman Theatre

by Annette Dixon

Goodman Theatre has shown some delightful productions in the past but have outdone themselves with Convert.

It is not only a production in a historical time frame in Southern Africa but also a historical fact about the British missionary Robert Moffat from the 1820's. In 1879 the first Jesuit mission in Zimbabwe is established and the play begins.

Adam Immerwahr is the Associate Director for Convert and with his knowledge of Africa, he was able to give us the insight of Africa during the British rule and giving us all equity actors using their professionlism.

The actors had to learn the Shona language and learn it well. They did a superb job.

Playwright Danai Gurira's work was so real, she writes about "history with humanity, truth an depth, and gave us access to the heart and mind of an African teenage girl who struggles with making a life, changing choice. She brings the African Colonial experience right to us."

Emily Mann, Director pieced all of it together and received acclaimed reviews at opening night. Seven actors in all uniting together to put on the best performance I have seen in years. Their depiction of history, the setting of the play is indicative to the 1890's. A big thank you to all those connected with the Convert.

For those interested in seeing an outstand production, you still have time. The Convert will be in Chicago until March 25 and tickets can be purchased as low as $12, the family, may be age limited, can join in on this one. Call 312-443-3800 or GoodmanTheatre.org.

Camino Real is also in production at the Goodman

by Annette Dixon

This one was a tough one to review, mainly because the director took many liberties with Tennessee Williams play.

As an American writer, he had many New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards. His 1952 play The Rose Tattoo received the Tony Award for best play and then there was Camino Real written in 1952.

I have seen this play produced before but not like this one. I am not going to say it was different, what it depicts is society in the low life with a flair of pornography. The plot of the story may be the same but the stage presentation was like viewing something on a screen, which I wasn't expecting.

In reality the director had to give this production its utmost sensationalism, maybe to express his interpretation of the seediest lifestyle he could depict.

I don't disagree with what he had accomplished but it appeared there were scenes with to much realism and not enough of imagination for the audience to desire. The shocking value is not always what I want to see throughout the whole play.

I would have to say he did what he interpretted and Goodman went along with it, so in this case I would have to give this one a thumbs down.

If you are looking for shock value in your play by all means see Camino Real. It's playing until April 8, tickets are $29 to $79 and you can call Goodman Theatre at 312-443-3800 or visit GoodmanTheatre.org.

The expression of interwining the tap dancers from the Afro-Americans dancers and Celtic Dancers were first introduced in Michael Flatley's Riverdance. Here we see the movements by many professionals in the last performance of the National Troupe.

Introduction to Broadway In Chicago showing some old and new productions

Riverdance was in Chicago from March 13 through the 18th bringing the Oriental Theatre to a full house. The Riverdance National Tour, which is not Michael Flatley's production will end June of 2012, but I doubt if we'll see the end of Riverdance.

Michael Flatley who started it all is happily married, living in Ireland and raising a family and of course very wealthy. He was from the southside, graduated from Brother Rice, was a Dennehy Dancer, opened up an Irish Dance School, and the rest is history.

Other productions Broadway in Chicago anounces are CATS coming May 1 through the 6th at Cadillac Palace. Les Miserables will be at the Cadillac Palace on November 14 through December 2, 2012. The newest smash hit from London and New York is War Horse at the Cadillace on December 18th through January 5. This is a must see.

BRING IT ON the MUSICAL opened at Cadillac Palace on March 6 and it will continue until the 25th. The music is refreshing and the comedy is great. You will be delighted with the Cheerleaders singing and watching their choreography. The stunts are breath taking.

At Bank of America Theatre the famous Jersey Boys will be in Chicago on April 5, through June 3rd

Auditorium Theatre of Rossevelt University will have Sister Act from November 13 through December 2, 2012.

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Pointers For Parents

Wholesome and delicious family meals can be found at the grocer's frozen aisle.

Frozen Foods Can Help Your Evening

(NAPSA)-In this fast-paced world, it's often a struggle finding time to make healthy and satisfying meals every night of the week. As work days grow longer and commitments become more abundant, many Americans resort to the convenience of a drive-through window or the pizza delivery boy, unaware of the superior options found in the freezer aisle of their local supermarket.

Popular culture often implies that frozen meals (aka, "TV dinners") are lowly and only acceptable as a last resort. But the frozen food aisle has evolved-along with Americans' taste buds-and no longer has to carry the stigma of overprocessed, high-fat, carb-heavy food to which it is so often intrinsically linked.

Admittedly, unhealthy options still linger in the frozen food aisle. Many brands rely on fancy packaging and delicately chosen adjectives to create the illusion of a healthy meal. Some also contain disguised ingredients and additives that mask flavor and taste in order to make the food last longer on the shelf and look better out of the box, all the while compromising on taste and nutrition.

However, savvy consumers can find many nutritious and satisfying meals that rival homemade creations. The trick is to know what to look for. Here are some quick and easy tips to help you navigate the frozen food aisle:

- When reading the ingredient labels, avoid words like "phosphates," "modified" and "chloride," as well as additives like "gums."
- Look for ingredient labels that contain primarily natural, easily recognizable ingredients.
- Check the expiration date on each meal purchased, and on the meals that may have been forgotten in the back of the home freezer.
- Pay attention to the portion sizes listed on the nutritional label. What looks like one serving may turn out to be two or three servings.

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How Cloud Computing Is Helping Small Businesses Compete And Thrive

(NAPSA)-In today's economic climate, small businesses need every advantage they can find to get ahead. New technologies in the form of cloud computing are helping small businesses level the playing field against bigger competitors.

Cloud computing makes it possible for companies to access powerful software applications via the Internet for a simple monthly fee. Because the applications are delivered via the Internet, every small business can get access to the same innovations and tools that bigger competitors have been using for years. For instance, Microsoft Corp. recently launched Microsoft Office 365, which brings together the company's familiar Microsoft Office applications with its enterprise email, videoconferencing and other collaboration and communication capabilities delivered as a subscription service.

Using the cloud can help your business do the following:

1. Build a "borderless office." A good cloud service will connect you with colleagues and customers virtually anywhere via click-to-chat, videoconference or shared desktops, to work together whether you're across town or around the globe. Eliminating unnecessary travel by using these online tools will not only save on costs, it will help you run a green business.

Chaundra Smith, owner of Naturally Me, makes handcrafted, natural body care products in Durham, N.C. Using the cloud, she has set up a virtual team of consultants and staff members who all work together and collaborate in their "borderless" office.

Tip: Look for a cloud service that lets you make PC-to-PC voice and video calls and hold online meetings on the fly. You'll want to be able to share your desktop, online whiteboard and presentations with colleagues-as if you're in the same room, even when you're a city or continent away.

2. Work how you want, where you want. The cloud untethers you from your desk and keeps you connected wherever you are. Web-enabled and offline access* to your important documents, email, contacts and calendars helps you stay nimble and responsive.

Team members at high-perfor_mance carmaker and parts company Shelby American, Inc. in Las Vegas travel frequently around the globe and require remote connectivity** to collaborate on new product development. Cloud-based tools help everyone stay connected and keep the business moving while out of the office.

Tip: Look for a cloud service that works on a PC, Mac and smartphone,** with consistent experience on each device. The best services help you edit spreadsheets, presentations and other documents with others in real time and view files from a browser or mobile device.

3. Invest in tomorrow without breaking the bank today. The cloud lets your small business run on the same technology that powers the Fortune 500, without hiring an army of IT experts, so you can focus on your core business. Beyond cost savings, many small businesses realize additional benefits after they move to the cloud-better collaboration among employees, customers and partners means quicker sharing of ideas and problem resolution. A cloud-powered small business is more nimble and prepares you to adapt to changing business needs -now and in the future.

Imagination Yoga, a small, family-owned business in Portland, Ore., teaches a "kindness- based" curriculum, instructing children on yoga concepts and storytelling to spark their creativity and get them exercising. The company plans to use cloud-based collaboration to market its services, connect with more schools and families across the country, and create online enrollment options for customers, which saves time and money. The cloud also allows every Imagination Yoga employee to access the company's Microsoft Outlook calendar, keeping everyone on the same page.

Tip: Look for an offering that can grow with you but also work well with the tools you already use. You'll also want to safeguard your data with business-grade privacy, security and disaster recovery capabilities.

* Microsoft Office 2007 or 2010 required for offline capabilities.

** An appropriate device, Internet access and supported browser and/or network carrier connectivity are required. Data plan charges may apply.

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SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 38 | Number 19 | April 3, 2012

Burbank, Evergreen Park, Hickory Hills, Justice, Oak Lawn

Green Grease in Hickory Hills

by Jan Glaz

The City Council was introduced to the idea of Green Grease on March 22nd at the regularly scheduled Board of Trustees meeting. Mark Donahue presented his business plan and then answered questions from the city council relative to opening an environmental grease recycling business 'Green Grease' at 7740 W. 79th Street, in Hickory Hills.

Green grease oil collection would service commercial organizations in Hickory Hills and surrounding areas that have waste oil to dispose of. Donahue explained that there are uses for recycled grease, one being alternative fuel. His company differs than most because they will be converting it solely for the use of domestically used bio fuels that drastically reduces emissions and carbon dioxide. In answer to an alderman's question concerning holding containers, Donahue replied that the number of gallons of oil in a container is estimated at no more than 6,000 gallons. Stench rated high on the list of inquiries due to residential properties in the area. Donahue described the collection process as siphoning the oil through a hose into a certified sealed holding tank which will then go directly into another sealed tank for transport out of state for refining. For more information contact: mdonahue@green-grease.com

Finances: The City Council promptly approved a resolution in the amount of $600,000 to cover the city's annual road program and general maintenance expenditures. A motion also carried for bills payable for the 2nd half of March in the amount of $585,800.81.

Alderman Waight introduced a new business license for Healing Hands Massage located at 95th and 78th Avenue. The Police Department's request to hire a Patrol Officer to replace a retired officer was granted by the Board; having no further business, the council voted to adjourn.

Tony Yukich honored for his 95th birthday and long time service

by Matt Mayer

Mayor James Sexton presented a proclamation to the honorable Tony Yukich at the March 19 Evergreen Park Board of Trustees meeting. The proclamation recognizes Yukich on his 95th birthday in recognition of service as an elected official in Evergreen Park. Yukich joined the United Homeowner in 1960 and rose to the rank of director and officer. He served the village as a trustee for over 56 years. Yukich was appointed to the zoning board in 1964 serving until 1967 when he was elected village trustee serving until 1979. He served again as village trustee from 1995 to 2001.

Other highlights: An ordinance pertaining to a license for underground storm sewer and catch basins between the Grand Trunk Western railroad and the village was approved. "This will alleviate some flooding along the railroad tracks from 99th to 102nd Streets", said Sexton. "There's been some water collecting behind many homes there and this will help alleviate it." Public Works Director Bill Lorenz has been working forever with the railroad and we finally have an agreement with them. We're happy to get that situation straightened out, said Sexton.

An ordinance amending a section and a chapter of the municipal code pertaining to fees and limitations was approved. This ordinance adds a "B" liquor license for consumption on premises. A resolution for the improvement by municipality under the Illinois Highway code for 95th Street from Pulaski to Western Avenue was approved as well as a resolution for improvement by municipality under the Illinois Highway code for 95th Street and Turner Avenue.

A resolution for improvement by municipality under the Illinois Highway code for 93rd Place from California Avenue to Country Club Drive and 94th Place from California to Country Club Drive was approved along with a resolution for improvement by municipality under the Illinois Highway code for 99th Street from Central Park Avenue to the Grand Trunk Railroad. "These resolutions were to clean up old paperwork with IDOT", Sexton said.

Oak Lawn outlines bug infestation plan

by Matt Mayer

Village Arborist Heather Green addressed the village board at a recent Oak Lawn Board of Trustees meeting regarding the Emerald Ash Borer that first appeared in Evergreen Park last year. The adult EBA lays eggs under the live layer of the bark. The affected trees are identified when the layer under the bark strips away. Out of the 1600 ash trees in the village, 490 are infected and need to be removed, said Green.

The public works department will remove the infected trees and homeowners and landlords will be able to participate in the villages 50/50 tree program, said Green. Additional information is available at the municipal building or the village website at www.oaklawn-il.gov/home.aspx.

Other highlights: William Bard the owner of the bowling ally which has been operating as a Brunswick Zone on 103rd and Cicero Avenue said his family and representatives from Brunswick Zone were unable to reach an agreement to continue the lease. The board discussed closing hours since the liquor license was for a 2 a.m. closing. Bard said he wanted a later closing for the weekends - the alleys would close at midnight during the week. He also said he would have to see if there was enough business to support a 2 a.m. closing on the weekends. We want to bring back the family element and will rename it the Arena Bowl in July, said Bard.

Trustee Alex Olejniczak said that ComED had reported a scam where people are in the village posing as ComEd employees and trying to get into senior's homes. Seniors or anyone who suspects a scam should call the police even if they show identification or there is a Com Ed van outside. If you're not sure, we urge you again to call the police, said Olejniczak.

Back Row, left to right: Chief George Sheets, Oak Lawn Fire Department, Bureau Chef Jim Liekel, Oak Lawn Fire Department, Karen Boll, Hawk Ford and Chamber President, Patti Johnson, Suburban Bank & Trust; Joann Reiser, Marquette Bank, Officer Jim Pacetti, Oak Lawn Police Department, and Chief Bill Villanova, Oak Lawn Police Department Front Row, left to right: Clare Murphy of St. Catherine (3rd Place Fire Safety); Shannon Parks of St. Germaine (1st Place Fire Safety contest); Ashley Drag of St. Linus (2nd Place Public Safety contest); Erin Gilmartin of St. Linus (1st Place Public Safety contest); Abigail Perry of St. Gerald (2nd Fire Safety contest).Not pictured: Danna Awawdeh of Columbus Manor (3rd Place Public Safety

Winners of the Coloring book are honored at the village hall in Oak Lawn

The Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce recognized winners of the annual Fire and Public Safety Coloring Book contest during the March 27th Village board meeting. Representatives from the Oak Lawn Fire and Police Departments were on hand to congratulate the winners who were honored by Village President, Dave Heilmann, during the meeting.

The student winners are as follow: Fire Safety Coloring Contest (Sponsored by the Oak Lawn Fire Department) 1st Place: Family Membership to The Children Museum in Oak Lawn & a $25 Gift Certificate Shannon A. Parks Grade 2nd. St. Germaine 2nd Place: $25 Gift Certificate Abigail Perry Grade 3rd, St. Gerald 3rd Place: $25 Gift Certificate Clare Murphy Grade 3rd, St. Catherine Public Safety Coloring Contest (Sponsored by the Oak Lawn Police Department) 1st Place: Family Membership to The Children Museum in Oak Lawn & a $25 Gift Certificate Erin Gilmartin Grade 4th, St. Linus 2nd Place: $25 Gift Certificate Ashley Drag Grade 4th, St. Linus 3rd Place: $25 Gift Certificate Danna Awawdeh Grade 2nd, Columbus Manor .

The 1st place drawing from the respective coloring contests will be featured on the cover of the 2011 Fire and Public Safety Coloring Book. Founded in 1946, today the Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce consists of more than 300 members.

Village View

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FAR SOUTH EDITION

Volume 10 | Number 7 | April 3, 2012

Oak Forest, Orland Park, Tinley Park

Orland approves Pebble Creek purchase

by Jan Glaz

The Village Board approved an ordinance 'Pebble Creek Purchase' at the Village of Orland Board of Trustees meeting March 19th. The village purchase agreement is for property located at 13951-13961 LaGrange Road and the property will become part of the Open Lands holding, with the goal of continuing to preserve land within the Village boundaries. The parcel is approximately 3.3 acres and is located near the Cook County Forest Preserve holdings and wetland areas. Included in the purchase is a 3,080 square foot building located on the site. The purchase agreement amount is for $385,000.00, as is.

Deadline Approval: It came to the attention of the village that a grant awarded through the Treasury Executive Office of Asset Forfeiture and the U.S. Secret Service in the amount of $12,500 had to be utilized no later than 4/1/12. The board moved to purchase a covert network video surveillance system and electric box enclosure at a price not to exceed $11,000 from Crime Point, located in Camarillo, California, for the village investigations division. A motion also carried to waive the bidding process due to the custom nature of the equipment. It was stated that the village will be reimbursed for the purchase of the items through the U.S. Secret Service grant. The city council also approved a budget adjustment to the Police Department's Machinery & Equipment budget in the amount of $11,000 in order to fund the purchase.

The Cost of News: The "Orland Park Public" is the village's printed newsletter created 30 years ago and delivered quarterly to all homes and businesses. Bids were opened in the Village Clerks office for the printed version of the newsletter on February 24th. The total bid price was based on a total of 108,000 newsletters annually and per 1,000 additional copies. Hagg Press of Elgin was approved as the lowest of four bidders, for a period of three years, with an annual price of $25,079.00 for four editions in 2012; $25,455.00 in 2013; $25,837.00 in 2014.

Aside from the business of approvals, Mayor McLaughlin honored Sandburg students with well-deserved Community Pride Awards at a special presentation ceremony. Sandburg High School senior, Joey Kopera, received an award for winning the IHSA State Bowling Individual Championship. Joey averaged 236 including a high game of 265. He rolled a 257 in the final game while striking out the last 3 frames to capture the state title.

The Carl Sandburg High School Varsity Cheerleaders and their coaches Mike Bruce, Caylee Bruce and Holly Baumgarten were recognized for their win at the 2012 IHSA State Cheerleading Competition. The Varsity Cheerleaders performance in the finals earned them a record setting score of 94.84. This is Sandburg cheerleaders' third state title since 2006.

Members of the 126th Air Refueling Wing, Illinois National Guard, bow their heads during a prayer in front of a memorial at Scott AFB, Ill., March 19, 2012. A ceremony was held to commemorate the four Wing aircrew members who perished in an aircraft accident 30 years ago. Maj. William S. Dixon, Jr., Capt. Kenneth L. Herrick, Capt. Robert J. Nicosia and Master Sgt. Richard A. Crome were aboard a KC-135A "Stratotanker" while on a routine training mission when their plane exploded near Greenwood, Ill. In addition, 23 members of the 928th Tactical Airlift Group, Air Force Reserves, who were passengers also lost their lives.

The Illinois Sierra Club holds meeting April 9th

The Sauk-Calumet Group of the Illinois Sierra Club will hold its monthly meeting on Monday, April 9, at 7:15 p.m. at the Frankfort Public Library, 21119 Pfeiffer Rd. (just off Rt. 30).

The Thorn Creek Nature Center is the subject this month. Friends of Thorn Creek will show slides of the flora and fauna and tell us about this south-side natural jewel. Thorn Creek Nature Preserve is a 985-acre oak-hickory woodland with the distinction of being the 5th largest dedicated Illinois Nature Preserve. It contains 3½ miles of trails and a small Nature Center on Monee Road in Park Forest.

Sierra Club meetings are free and open to the public. People interested in enjoying outdoor activities, preserving the environment, and protecting the world in which we live, are encouraged to attend. Be introduced to the wildlife of a South Suburban natural area. For additional information, contact Patrick Coffey, Publicity Chair, at pjc1000@comcast.net.

Visit Village View Website at
www.villageviewls.weebly.com

Oak Forest hikes sales tax

by Jan Glaz

An Ordinance: Imposing a Home Rule Sales Tax in Oak Forest passed unanimously at the Oak Forest City Council Meeting, March 27th. The 1% hike in sales tax is in addition to the regular sales tax consumers pay and applies to purchases made in Oak Forest of personal property: Items exempt from the 1% home rule tax are prescription drugs, services, licensed vehicles and food that is unprepared.

Colleen Julian, Finance Director, reported that revenue deficits for the village weigh in at $4.2 million and the city cannot continue to reduce staff and other services without jeopardizing the well-being of its citizens. As it stands, the city lacks machinery, vehicles, and equipment and key employees, including five full time police officers. With the inclusion of nonresidents shopping in Oak Forest, the additional 1% municipal sales tax will generate around $1.1 million in revenue.

The Board of Trustees agreed to extend a contract for Oak Lawn Water Negotiation Consultants despite the fact that negotiations had reached the limit of dollars that the city had agreed to. Oak Forest has been paying 11% with a consortium with other communities. Going forward to resolve the negotiations in regards to the work that needs to be done the City Council had approved a request for an additional $10,560.00.

Flood Resolution: The City Council adopted a resolution supporting a grant application to develop a Multiple-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan before adjouming. Community Development Director Adam Dotson informed the board that they have been talking about a plan for three years and now without going out alone but in conjunction with other communities, the grant opportunity, if the plan is approved by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, would allow Oak Forest to apply for FEMA pre-disaster money, in the millions. "This particular grant in itself is a big door opener for the City of Oak Forest, along with three other communities that we're teaming with, Midlothian, Robbins, and Blue Island," said Dotson.

Classic Comedy "The Odd Couple" Comes to the Tinley Park Performing Arts Center

Mix one well-meaning slob of a sportswriter with one compulsive neatnik, spice with all their odd friends and acquaintances and you'll get laughs galore. That's what you can expect from the Tinley Park-Park District and Covered Bridge Theaters' performances of The Odd Couple.

Performance dates and times for The Odd Couple are as follows:

- Friday, April 14 at 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday, April 15 at 3:00 p.m.
- Friday, April 21 at 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday, April 22 at 3:00 p.m.

Village View

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SOUTH SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 13 | Number 7 | April 3, 2012

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

Firefighters Heat Things Up At Sertoma Centre's BIG Event

Limited spots remain for firehouse chefs to compete

Firehouse chefs will be heating things up at Sertoma Centre's BIG Event featuring the firehouse cook-off on Saturday, April 28 at 115 Bourbon Street in Merrionette Park.

Firehouse chefs from across the Chicagoland area compete for the right to call themselves the best culinary creators of ribs, chicken, chili and ethnic dishes. If you or someone you know is a firefighter or emergency responder, then consider competing in the hottest firehouse cook-off in town.

Trophies and prizes are awarded for each category: chicken, ribs, chili, and ethnic dishes. Chefs prepare sample size portions for 500 people and are reimbursed up to $500 for food expenses.

At Sertoma Centre's BIG Event 2012, sponsored by SouthtownStar Newspaper and the Aileen S. Andrew Foundation, attendees can sample the food as celebrity judges select the best firefighter chefs in the competition.

Dave Fleming the magician and juggler will perform on stage at 6:30 pm and live music will be provided by Sound Barrier. There are raffles and fun for the entire family. Please mark your calendar and join us on Saturday April 28th, from 5 – 9 p.m. at 115 Bourbon Street in Merrionette Park, Ill. Guests can also play on a video gaming station from Game Pazzo, the world's largest gaming facility in Downers Grove, IL.

Ticket prices are the same low price as the last year. Adults $10 for entry fee donation/food sample tickets, children 12 & under $5, children under 3, free. Proceeds from the event benefit the almost 700 individuals with disabilities served by Sertoma Centre, Inc.

For more information, call 708-730-6206 or go to www.sertomacentre.org.

Sertoma Centre, Inc. is a nationally-accredited, not-for-profit agency that provides services to individuals with developmental, physical and emotional disabilities, and/or mental illness.

Spring is Here!
So it is time to advertise,
Lawn Care Services,
Stump Removals.
Tree Trimmers, Lawn Cutting,
Sod, Landscapers, Roofers,
Fences, Roofers, Blacktop,
New Concrete Steps, Builders.
Call for details at
312-624-8996.

Senior award winners (Back L-R): Amber Voss, Amanda Seigers, Megan Bruinius (Front L-R): Matt Coyle, Adam Doorn, Becca Kuipers, Allison Culver.

Chicago Christian Takes Time to Honor "Excellence"

On Friday, March 30th the students, staff, and administration at Chicago Christian High School took time out of their day to honor students who have displayed excellence in classroom achievement, excellence in character development, and an excellent work ethic during the third quarter of this year. Each academic department was to select students that represented these requirements in their subject area. Those who were chosen will attend a school sponsored off-campus lunch with Principal and Superintendent Mr. Robert Payne. Congratulations to the winners for their achievements during the third quarter of the school year!

English: Kate Prium (Mokena), Sara Swartwout (Olympia Fields), Nathan Koster (Tinley Park), Jeffrey Kamp (Tinley Park).

Bible: Luke Boss (Frankfort), AnaMarie Karnia (Oak Lawn), Jasmine Bradley (Matteson), Amanda Seigers (Orland Park).

Fine Arts: Jill Dowdy (Oak Forest), Tatyanna McWhite (Chicago), Allison Culver (Blue Island).

Foreign Language: Natalie Rosendale (New Lennox), Brodie Meyer (Palos Heights), Matt Coyle (Crestwood), Adam Doorn (Palos Heights).

Math: Will Klanderman (Mokena), Anna DeBlecourt (Mokena), Kristin Duh (Crestwood), Calvin Visser (Oak Forest), Rebecca Voogt (Tinley Park), Becca Kuiper (Palos Heights), Scott Cooper (Orland Park).

PE/Health: Patrick McCarthy (Lemont), Gatenet Timmermans (Palos Heights), Allyson Hoger (Matteson), James Cyze (Orland Park).

Science: Breanna Kooiman (Tinley Park), Jacob Bruinius (Tinley Park), Kaleb DeJager (Alsip), Megan Bruinius (Tinley Park).

Social Studies: Isaac Neal (Orland Park), Jamie Hiskes (Midlothian), George Tsourdinas (Orland Park), Ashley Swartwout (Olympia Fields).

Business/Technology: Samantha Kubik (Beverly), Jacob Bruinius (Tinley Park), Tom Stoub (Oak Lawn), Amber Voss (Orland Park).

Chicago Ridge approves synthetic cannabinoid ordinance

by Matt Mayer

Chicago Ridge officials approved an ordinance, which outlaws the possession, delivery, and sale of synthetic cannabinoids (marijuana), which contains an active ingredient composed of herbs and chemicals, that act similar to that of marijuana and tetrahydrocanibinol (THC). The products have been sold legally at gas stations, convenience stores and local smoke shops under the name "Spice" or "K2".

The ordinance describes the fake pot as tobacco, herbs, incense, spice, aromatic or any combination whether marked to be smoked or for any other use. The ordinance was approved to coincide with one of 214 state laws that went into effect Jan 1 making it a felony to possess or sell the products. The state requires municipalities to create an ordinance outlawing the sale within their communities. Chicago was the first to pass an ordinance last December prior to state law taking effect.

In other village news a municipal electricity aggregation referendum, which appeared on the March 20 ballot, passed, other surrounding communities that passed the referendum were Hickory Hills, Palos Hills and Evergreen Park. Oak Lawn is considering placing an electricity aggregation referendum on the November general election ballot. 66 Suburban Cook County municipalities placed referendums on the ballot and only 10 failed to pass. At the Feb. 7 Board of Trustees meeting, Chicago Ridge had approved Illinois Energy Aggregation to be the energy broker for the village if the referendum passed. If the other municipalities haven't already approved an energy broker, they will need to do so -this is the next step in the process.

Associated Counseling Again Co-Sponsoring Medication Take Back Day

Associated Counseling and Wellness Centers, along with the Midlothian Police Department is sponsoring another National Take Back Day on April 28 to help discard expired prescription and over the counter medication for safe destruction.

In 2011, during National Medication Take Back Day sponsored by National Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), Americans discarded 499 tons of medications prescription and over the counter medication at sites for safe destruction. This prevented medication from entering the ground water as well as keeping prescription drugs off the streets and out of the hands of children. The Midlothian Police Department will be collecting at the police department, 14801 S. Pulaski from 10 am until 2 pm. All medications, whether prescription or over the counter are accepted. No liquids and no injections can be taken. Medications can remain in containers with labels as all contents are incinerated.

Village View

We serve our community with good news!

B-MAC EDITION

Volume 6 | Number 7 | April 3, 2012

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Alsip's boat launch decision: officially delayed

by Jan Glaz

Following a lengthy debate, the City Council agreed on March 19th at the Village of Alsip Board of Trustees Meeting, to remove from the agenda the item; approval to open the Boat Launch on March 31st on the honor system and to work on the details for an official opening for May 1, 2012, rather than the usual April 1st opening date.

Trustee Quinn reported that he had a discussion with members of the Park Board on whether they would be interested in taking over the Boat Launch; he then asked the city council if they had any opinions on the issue. Mayor Kitching replied that he would rather keep it and not make any money off it. Kitching informed the assembly that it took their forefathers years of effort to accomplish. "I just don't think that's right, I think we should hang on to it and continue to operate it. That's my opinion and I do have a problem with giving it up," said the Mayor. Trustee Quinn mentioned that the village doesn't advertise or promote it or use it for anything else, but a boat launch. Quinn believed that the park district would have the ability to promote it for recreation, whereas the village would have to use money better spent elsewhere. The Boat Launch issue will return to the agenda for approval April 2nd, at the next scheduled Board of Trustees Meeting.

Lack of Insurance and licensing information hindered the request for approval to purchase an enclosed trailer for the Police Department's Alsip Safety Express Safety Train, but utilization questions aided the process of acceptance and the item went up for a positive vote along with the promise from Police Chief Christopher Radz to obtain the required documentation. Radz informed the council that the Safety Train is the largest allotment ever given to a village by the state, due to Alsip's efforts to reach children. It was reported that approximately $24,000 worth of train equipment came at no cost to the village and is utilized at functions such as schools, churches, picnics, block parties and industry to educate children in crime prevention. He also mentioned the fact that because the village has had to borrow a trailer to transport the Safety Express Train, it has not utilized the train as often as it could be. Another benefit related to the trailer purchase is its use in emergency circumstances or when a police vehicle needs to be transported.

Of interest before adjournment: Approval of the Alsip Park District's request to hold a Grand Garage Sale on Saturday, June 2, 2012, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the parking lot at 12521 S. Kostner Avenue, and the closing of Village Hall on Friday, April 20th at 2:30 p.m. and on Saturday, April 21st from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. for painting and installation of new carpet in the front clerk's office

Hometown celebrities inspire District 130 Middle Schoolers

Students at Kerr and Veterans Memorial Middle Schools in Blue Island had a special treat on the afternoon leading up to their Spring Break. Local celebrities Bob "Butterbean" Love, former basketball legend, three-time NBA All-Star and current director of community affairs for the Chicago Bulls, and Katie Quick, an Evergreen Park native who rose from the ranks as a Chicago Public School teacher and traded in her plan book for a guitar to become a country music artist.

Quick, now a Nashville resident, has combined her three biggest passions (music, motivation, and education) into one amazing student experience called "Fingertips," a unique school program named after a song from her debut album that she wrote for her first class of sixth grade students, encouraging them to follow their dreams.

Quick brought the groundbreaking arts and education program to Veterans Memorial Middle School and the unique educational concert experience combined live music with storytelling, humor, student participation, and inspiration. Quick encouraged each student to set goals, discover their dreams, and follow them. She told the story of her beginnings as an inner-city school teacher who used her music in the classroom as a way to motivate and inspire students. Although a dedicated and talented young teacher, Quick had dreams of an even bigger audience and wanted to show her students that if you believe in your dreams anything is possible.

She left teaching to pursue her music career and has since independently built up such an impressive international resume that even the biggest names in the music industry are taking notice. "Fingertips" was created to prove to students everywhere that with hard work and a positive attitude anything is possible. During her visit, Quick also encouraged students to create a dream wall and to treat each other with kindness and respect. Students were not only treated to a one-of-a-kind concert-going experience, but they also got the chance to personally interact with Quick through a question and answer session as well as a meet-and-greet after the concert where she signed autographs for every student who approached her.

Time-Saving in Midlothian

by Jan Glaz

Mayor Stephens introduced a time-saving resolution at the Village of Midlothian Board of Trustees Meeting held March 28th. Total Parking Solutions (TPS) refers to automating the parking fee collections at the train station. In the current system the Mayor said, "We're faced with dollar bills being folded into little tiny rolls so they can fit through the slot. That necessitates our police officers to sit and unroll all these dollar bills to the tune of some three hours' worth of work." The alternative was a token system but the tokens slide down between the receptacle to the bottom where they cannot determine who has or hasn't paid. The new system accepts both credit cards and cash and has a read-out of which parking spaces were paid and not paid for on a particular day.

The cost of the upgrade will be paid for from the proceeds of the parking lot and will be neutral in terms of what the village spends. The amount of money is $63,000.00 for equipment, installation and training. The price per terminal for the management system is $70.00 per month, for a total of five terminals annually at $4200.00. Also, a patron can pay by phone at a cost of .37 cents per transaction. The first year includes a maintenance contract from TPS. Mayor Stephens concluded that the entire operation is time-saving in terms of the amount of time to collect money, and when paying violations.

Trustee Potempa reported the receipt of $10,787.22 for 80% of the construction engineering in accordance with a block project grant and the village expects another $5,000. Potempa also disclosed that a 'Garden Walk' is scheduled for the coming season and that residents can register with the village if they would like their home and garden on the list.

Mayor Stephens mentioned that the Cicero Avenue resurfacing project begins mid-May, starting at 147th Street and goes south to 183rd Street, and the significant thing he had just learned was that IDOT was going to rent space in Blackhawk Shopping Center for their headquarters, which is convenient if problems occur.

Newsworthy agenda approvals: A resolution authorizing the execution of the Roy Erikson's Outdoor Maintenance, 2012 Landscape Contract. The proposal amount is $3,030.00 per month from May 1st to November 1st for a total of $18,180.00. The village also authorized ordering and paying for a survey of Cottage Row in the amount of $2,900.00 for the improvement of the street and an invoice to be paid for the installation of nine valves to the Water Distribution System in the amount of $1,054.25. In conclusion the city council approved the appointment of Paul Abeyta to the Veterans' Committee.

See our Website village viewls. weebly.com

Oak Forest voters opt for electrical aggregation

On Tuesday, March 20, Oak Forest voters approved a referendum to allow the City of Oak Forest to seek bids for lower electric rates for residents and small business owners, who have not opted out of such a program, from suppliers other than Commonwealth Edison. The electrical aggregation referendum received considerable support with 65 percent approval from voters. "I think our educational efforts really made a difference," said Public Works Director Troy Ishler. "We made a concerted effort to inform residents about the process before they headed to the polls."

Moving forward, the city will hold at least two public hearings to discuss and create an aggregation plan. Once the plan is in place, city officials and representatives from the Northern Illinois Municipal Electric Collaborative (NIMEC), an electric purchasing agent, will prepare and publicize a request for proposals. Only energy suppliers certified and regulated by the Illinois Commerce Commission can respond to the request. The bid that comes closest to achieving the goals of the aggregation plan will be accepted.

If none of the bids meet the plan's goals, there is no obligation to accept one, and the aggregated accounts will continue to receive power from ComEd at the prevailing rates. A resident or small business owner has no obligation to participate and could choose to opt-out of the program altogether. Customers will receive information on how to opt-out of the process.

Customers who choose to participate in the program will continue to be billed by ComEd since it will be delivering the electricity to their homes or businesses. Also, those customers will continue to contact ComEd in the event of a power outage.For more information about electrical aggregation, please visit the city's Web site at www.oakforest.org.

GROW
It's time for another Garden Party!
2nd Annual Potting Party
115th Bourbon Street
Friday, April 6th 2012
7p.m. - Midnight

Enjoy a full buffet and 5 hour open bar including draft beer, wind and soda. Dance to the best rock & roll hits with DJ Loren Gent of Fun!Fun!Fun! DJ's. The fun continues with a live art auction, silent auction and raffles.

Tickets are $30 in advance/ $35 at the door.

Please visit http://www.gardencenterservices.org/ for more information & to purchase tickets.

Proceeds benefit Garden Center Services, a nonprofit agency supporting persons with disabilities.

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We have found that through the years of publishing the readers are interested in general information and also local happenings within their community. Therefore because we are fully electronic, we will not be accepting faxed or mailed news releases.

Photograph (top row, from left): Maryclare Leonard (Orland Park), Dani O'Connell (Homer Glen), Eric Juds (Orland Park), Grace Rost (Orland Park), Zach Flowers (Orland Park), Jimmy Kopeika (Tinley Park), Frank Baffoe (Orland Park), and Jack O'Connell (Homer Glen).

Cardinal J. Bernardin Students Place Third in Academic Race

A team of seventh grade students from Cardinal Joseph Bernardin Catholic School (CJB) placed third in Marian Catholic High School's Amazing Academic Race. 22 teams from 16 area schools competed in the competition. Areas of academic competition included creative writing, math, science, speech, and model UN.

Between the academic portions of the race, the school hosted fun "athletic challenges" in basketball, color guard, fencing, and lacrosse. The CJB team consisting of Orland Park residents, Frank Baffoe, Zach Flowers, and Grace Rost along with Tinley Park resident Jimmy Kopeika tied for third place in the overall competition.

For more information on Cardinal J. Bernardin and the school's academic programs, please visit the website at www.cardinaljbschool.com.

Attention Seniors look at what Bremen Township is offering

Bremen Township is now offering "Senior Meals" at the Township Senior Center, located at 15350 Oak Park Ave. Oak Forest, Il 60452. We are serving fresh hot nutritional meals on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 12 noon. You must be at least 60 years old to qualify. The program is in partnership with Age Options and Catholic Charities. Donation: $4.00. For more information you may call (708) 687-8220 or (708) 333-9530.

Justice Trustee questions late night beer garden

by Jan Glaz

Action to approve the operation of a Beer Garden at the location of Davern's Tavern and Lounge, 8527 W. 79th Street, in Justice Illinois, came under scrutiny at the Village of Justice President and Board of Trustees Meeting, March 26th. Prior to taking a positive vote, Trustee Ed Rusch Jr. entertained a motion to open a discussion. Trustee Kuban responded that she observed that there was not a village ordinance addressing a curfew for a beer garden. Davern's Tavern Beer Garden plans to close at 2 a.m. and if residents complain the police would have no power to take action without a set curfew. Trustee Rusch assumed that the owner would be a good neighbor and did not want to force any curfew restrictions. Mayor Wasowicz replied, "What I would suggest is play by ear, if everything operates as it should and there's no problems, then obviously there's no problems. If neighbors start complaining... we'll have to set some parameters."

Trustee Kuban – Public Works Department - reported that the city of Hickory Hills Police Department sent a letter to the Justice Police Department to thank and commend them for their assistance in a deadly force incident, aiding them until such time when additional man power from their agency could address the situation. Trustee Kuban also announced under a new collection program, for this month alone, the revenue collected for outstanding tickets, without buying or renting a boot, is around $35,000. The announcement was followed by a boisterous response from the city council.

Website Woes: During the public portion of the meeting, before adjournment, one resident voiced concern about the village website because the information was not current. She complained the agenda had not been on the site for many weeks and other old information had been on for three months. By attending this village meeting she just learned about an important public meeting taking place the next day, on Wednesday, March 27th. It should have been posted. Trustee Sue Small agreed that there were problems to be addressed and promised that the issue would be taken care of.

State Rep. Kelly Burke Legislation fighting harmful phone bill scams passes House

Legislation sponsored by state Rep. Kelly Burke (D-Evergreen Park) to protect consumers by cracking down on the deceptive phone billing practice known as "cramming" recently passed the Illinois House unanimously. "Too many Illinoisans are being unfairly charged for unwanted and unused service," Burke said. "This legislation takes strong steps toward preventing swindlers and scammers from being able to add bogus charges to people's phone bills. I look forward to working with the Attorney General's office to pass meaningful measures to protect consumers and punish unscrupulous criminals."

House Bill 5211 aims to ban all third-party vendors from billing consumers on a phone bill, allowing only small exceptions for legitimate services. The measure is an initiative of Attorney General Lisa Madigan and supported by the Citizens Utility Board. According to a U.S. Senate Commerce Committee report, cramming is a $2 billion annual business for scammers. Crammed charges range from $10 to $45 and can affect all types of telephone customers including: residential lines, businesses, churches, non-profits and government.

The measure is supported by AT&T Illinois, the Illinois Independent Telephone Association and the Illinois Telecommunications Association. Phone cramming scams were originally perpetrated primarily through telemarketers, especially before the Do Not Call registry was established.

Recently, the scam has thrived online. Internet users have reported submitting their phone number and other personal information for online prize drawings, surveys or free recipes only to find charges on their phone bills for unauthorized services months later.

"If we can prevent one person from being victimized by cramming we are heading in the right direction," Burke said. "I hope the Senate will act swiftly to pass this important legislation so it can start protecting consumers." Burke's 36th Representative District includes all or parts of Oak Lawn, Evergreen Park, Chicago Ridge, Hometown, Hickory Hills, Palos Hills and Chicago's 18th, 19th, and 21st wards. For more information, please contact Burke's office at (708) 425-0571 or e-mail her at KellyB@ilga.gov.

Business Resource Fair and Expo at Moraine Valley

Business owners can discover new ways for their companies to operate more efficiently at Moraine Valley Community College's Business Resource Fair and Expo Be Responsible, Be Safe, Stay Profitable! The fair will be on Thursday, April 12, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the Moraine Business and Conference Center, Building M, on campus, 9000 W. College Pkwy., Palos Hills.

The cost to attend is $25, which includes a continental breakfast.Maria Wynne, CEO of the Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana, will be the keynote speaker during breakfast, from 8:45 to 9:30 a.m.

She will discuss the workforce of the future. Representatives from manufacturing, service, retail, entrepreneurs, not-for-profit agencies, chambers, municipalities, and other businesses are encouraged to attend this one-stop resource to gather information and funding opportunities from state departments, educational institutions, private businesses, and others.

Workshop topics include insurance, worker's compensation, employee wellness, cyber security, OSHA, state resources, social networking, disaster recovery, financial stability, community reinvestment, and more. Vendors also will distribute information that is helpful to businesses at the expo. A full list of seminars can be viewed by visiting morainevalley.edu/wdcs and clicking onBusiness Expo Seminar Information under Highlights.

The Business Resource Fair and Expo is sponsored by Moraine Valley's Corporate, Community and Continuing Education subdivision, the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunities and the Economic Development Council for the Southwest Suburbs.

For more information, call Eda Schrimple at (708) 974-5690 or email schrimple@morainevalley.edu.The expo's course code is EV5-213-170. To register, call (708) 974-2110 or go to morainevalley.edu and select "Register for Noncredit Classes" under Hot Topics, then click on "Prospective Students" and finally "Search, register and pay for noncredit classes."

The SOUTHWEST SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Salutes Big Bands!

Vocalist Michelle McKenzie-Voigt, swing dancers from Chicago Dance, and the SSO take us on a sentimental journey through the music of America's Golden Era

Sunday, April 29, 2012, 4:00 p.m.

Trinity Christian College Ozinga Audltorium
6601 W. College Dr., Palos Helghts

Adults $20-$25 Students $5
Seniors $15-$20 Children 12 and under free!

Purchase tickets at the door; by calling 708-802-0686; or online at www.southwestsymphony.com ...*Look for us on Facebook too!*

Water Tower Place walks you through history

Free Friday Walking Tours Begin April 6, Open to Public

Escalate up eight levels and through more than 30 years of history, compliments of Water Tower Place 's new historic tour.

On Fridays at 3 p.m., starting April 6, Water Tower Place will offer free 30-minute tours of the iconic shopping center. Guests will be treated to an intimate guided-tour by one of the center's experts during which they will learn about the center's history along with fun facts and anecdotes from the center's illustrious past.

"Did you know, for example, that Water Tower Place was one of the first vertical shopping centers in the world?" asks Katie Lindsay, marketing manager for Water Tower Place . "We are so proud of our history and prominent placement in Chicago 's shopping scene, we wanted to give our visitors the opportunity to celebrate with us and learn more about what makes this center so unique and special."

Tours begin at the Michigan Avenue entrance. From there, guests are escorted up and around Water Tower Place 's eight levels as they learn why the shopping center is a staple to Chicago and a retail icon in the industry. The tour ends on Level 7 at retailer Candyality, where guests are "treated" to the "Life is Sweet" museum.

All tour participants receive a free Water Tower Place tote bag, $10 Foodlife gift card and special offers from Candyality and other participating Water Tower Place retailers.

"These tours are a great opportunity for families, groups or even our local neighbors to spend tbe afternoon learning about and exploring a true Chicago icon in a new and different way," said Lindsay. "We're offering an afternoon of free fun."

To register for the tour, www.shopwatertower.com at least 24 hours in advance of the Friday tour. Groups of 15 people or more are welcome Sunday through Saturday during shopping hours – to request a special group tour, please register at least four weeks in advance by contacting Katie Lindsay at 312-654-9688 Children under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information about the historic tours, call Water Tower Place at 312-440-3166 or visit www.shopwatertower.com.

John J. Curtin was made Man of the Year

Father Perez Knights of Columbus Council #1444 member John J. Curtin was recently named "Man of the Year" by The Clare Association of Chicago at its 46th Annual Dinner Dance at Gaelic Park. A member of the Knights of Columbus since 1967, John has achieved the ranking of Sir Knight of the Fourth Degree, Holy family Assembly.

John is a native of Ballyvaskin, County Clare, Ireland. Immigrating to the USA in 1959, John found his way to Chicago where he has worked in the building trades.

In addition to his active participation with Perez Council, John is a practicing member of The Clare Association, and past president of the John F. Kennedy Division, Chapter 59 of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

He has 3 sons, Sean, Michael and Jimmy, 3 grandsons and 3 grand daughters.

Father Perez Grand Knight Jack Ullrich said, "Our brother Knights are proud to have had one of our own recognized by an association so highly regarded by the Irish-American community. John is a model of commitment to his family, friends and brother Knights.

Juan Siddi Flamenco Theatre Company to perform lead master class at Moraine Valley

Experience the captivating mystery, majesty and beauty of flamenco dance when the Juan Siddi Flamenco Theatre Company performs at Moraine Valley Community College on Saturday, April 14, at 7:30 p.m. The show will be in the Dorothy Menker Theater in the Fine and Performing Arts Center, on campus, 9000 W. College Pkwy., Palos Hills. Tickets are $25 for the general public, $20 for seniors and $15 for students.

The company also will offer a master class to community members on the afternoon of April 14. The class is free and open to anyone who would like to learn the art of flamenco dancing. Details are available by calling the Box Office at (708) 974-5500.

Artistic director and choreographer Juan Siddi and his international company of gifted flamenco dancers, singers and musicians will present an authentic performance. The company is committed to maintaining, preserving and innovating flamenco's unique ethnic and cultural art form.

Flamenco hails from the gypsies who settled in southern Spain during the Middle Ages. The essence of flamenco is "duende," a Spanish word meaning inspiration, magic or fire. Duende's deep emotion is the mystery of life in art, song, music, and dance.

Juan Siddi has been dancing flamenco since he was young, joining his first dance company at 18. He has performed and taught around the world but lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico, where he teaches flamenco dance at Aspen Sarita Fe Ballet Studios. Tickets for the Juan Siddi Flamenco Theatre Company and other upcoming performances can be purchased at morainevalley.edu/fpac, by calling (708) 974-5500, or at the Box Office located on the south end of the Fine and Performing Arts Center.

Celtic singer Cathie Ryan to perform at Moraine Valley

Irish-American Cathie Ryan will demonstrate her crystalline vocals and insightful songwriting during her performance at Moraine Valley Community College on Saturday, April 21, at 7:30 p.m. Her concert will be in the Dorothy Menker Theater in the Fine and Performing Arts Center, on campus, 9000 W. College Pkwy., Palos Hills.

Tickets are $25 for the general public, $20 for seniors and $15 for students. With an original and distinctive voice in Celtic music, Ryan has established herself as one of Celtic music's most popular and enduring singer-songwriters.

Since a seven-year tenure as the lead singer of Cherish the Ladies, she has been hailed as a captivating and deeply affecting performer who has built a loyal following throughout North America and Europe.

Ryan has released four critically acclaimed albums. She has performed on national and public television and has appeared on radio in the United States and throughout Europe. She was voted one of the Top 100 Irish Americans by "Irish America Magazine," and Chicago's "Irish American News" honored her as Irish Female Vocalist of the Decade. Billy Collins, former U.S. Poet Laureate, said of Ryan, "There is a powerful sweetness in Cathie Ryan's voice, as well as a Celtic intensity that can be felt in all the songs she writes and sings, songs of place, songs of memory, poignant songs of the heart."

Tickets for Cathie Ryan and other upcoming performances can be purchased at morainevalley.edu/fpac, by calling (708) 974-5500, or at the Box Office located on the south end of the Fine and Performing Arts Center.

Home helpers spreads awareness about Parkinson's Disease

Local Home Care Company Offers Community Caregiving Tips for Parkinson's Patients

The Parkinson's Disease Foundation estimates that there are nearly one million people living with Parkinson's in the United States. In light of April being National Parkinson's Awareness Month, Home Helpers of New Lenox is educating the local community on tips for families who are providing care for a loved one with Parkinson's disease.

"As a company that works with senior citizens and their families on a daily basis, we understand the challenges that families face when having to provide care for loved ones with chronic illnesses such as Parkinson's," said Paul Lyons, owner of Home Helpers of New Lenox. "Being aware of how to best prepare for caregiving tasks will provide some much needed peace of mind to the family."

Home Helpers of New Lenox is educating the community on how they can prepare for providing care for an aging loved one with Parkinson's by offering the following tips:

·Have Back Up – No matter how much you want to be, you are not superman or superwoman and cannot be there all the time to provide care. Train a few family members who you trust to serve as your backup so that you can move forward with daily responsibilities without worrying or enlist the services of Home Helpers to help with your loved one a few hours a week.

·Keep a Journal – Having a loved one with Parkinson's requires a lot of time and effort. Paying attention to how they are doing each day is very important. Pay attention to any new symptoms and write them down in a journal to take with you to the next doctor visit. This could be something significant to the doctor who may be able to help by changing medication or offering up some other alternatives to help. All Home Helpers caregivers are trained to pay attention to their client and anything new that they may be doing and alert their loved ones or doctor's.

Sarah Jewett, Director of Resident Servies for Assisted Living

Smith Village administrator advocates power of creativity for seniors

Ask Sarah Jewett to describe herself and she prefers instead to talk about what she believes in. Her credo suggests that the power of creativity can affect people's lives in amazing ways.

Jewett is the director of resident services for Assisted Living at Smith Village, a continuing care retirement community (CCRC) at 2320 W. 113th Place in Chicago's South Side Beverly neighborhood. She is passionate about the idea that creativity must be supported and nurtured throughout both the Smith Village community and the duration of a person's life.

Among her favorite books is Creativity: Flow and the Psychology of Discovery and Invention by MihalyCsikszentmihalyi, former chairman of the University of Chicago's department of psychology.

The book explores the creativity of those who have made milestone contributions to society, but it also suggests that people in general are most likely to thrive and be creative in environments that support creativity.

Jewett says that people like Marvin DeVries offer good examples of how this plays out at Smith Village.

Devries is one of 16 Smith Village residents belonging to the Smith Village Players, an acting group that mostly performs short skits, sometimes appearing in special costumes and others simply reading lines from scripts. The group also performs improvisational comedy.

DeVries, the amateur actor, offers living proof. "I'm normally reluctant to get involved," he says, "but as a result of my participation with Smith Village Players, I'm doing other things. I'm volunteering to transport people to medical appointments and watering the flowers once a week on Thursdays.

I wouldn't have considered these things if I hadn't already been involved with our performance group." 'The idea is to have fun' "The idea is to have fun," Jewett says, "But there's something more going on here. This is just one example of how Smith Village supports and encourages creativity among all of its residents. That goes a long way toward bolstering and maintaining people's interaction and vitality."

For holidays, Smith Village residents receiving memory support services enjoy flower-arranging workshops presented by a horticulture therapist. The exercise included smelling the flowers, appreciating their color, selecting and assembling them in arrangements. A wreath-making workshop encourages, for instance, to stay engaged. Year round, several residents participate in a plant rescue program that revives ailing houseplants and resells them in order to raise funds for Alzheimer's research.

Other activities for Smith residents have included jewelry making and a pet parade. Even the Smith Village main lobby encourages contemplation and creativity to a degree with its exhibition of oil paintings, Jewett says. There's also a sewing club and some residents contribute regularly to poetry and creative writing in the monthly newsletters. 'A satisfying release' "To me, creativity is basically a fusion of emotions and ideas inside of you," says Jewett, having earned a bachelor's degree in creative writing from Valparaiso University in Indiana.

"Pursuing a creative path, writing, art, music, dance, drama, is the most satisfying release of these emotions and ideas, giving them purpose and an outlet for expression."

Overseeing regular meetings of a writing group at Smith Village is Jewett's special contribution. "With older people, the benefits of writing are significant, both for them and for their audience," she says. "Many have worked through trauma and loss and can offer a great deal of wisdom through their writing."

Jewett joined Smith Village as an activities assistant in 2003. From there, she was promoted to director of life enrichment and recreation. After earning a master's degree in gerontological psychology from the Alfred Alder School of Professional Psychology in Chicago, she assumed responsibilities as director of assisted living.

No matter what her position, Jewett operates with the belief that creative activities help people express themselves and foster healthy connections with others. As proof, throughout the day she constantly responds to a steady succession of smiling residents who offer cheerful greetings.

Summer concerts at Millennium

Chicago's summer concert season kicks off on Memorial Day with the opening of Millennium Park's popular cutting-edge indie rock and pop music series, ***Downtown Sound: New Music Mondays.*** Premiering a week later is Millennium Park's all-new program, ***Loops and Variations,*** a series of six concerts that mix new music with electronica. The music continues with the return of the beloved ***Grant Park Music Festival*** celebrating its 78th anniversary and the acclaimed ***Made in Chicago: World Class Jazz*** series, which this year will showcase jazz with a distinctively Chicago flavor on six separate nights, culminating in the 34th Annual Chicago Jazz Festival.

All of the concerts are free and are presented by the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events. Concerts take place at the Frank Gehry-designed Jay Pritzker Pavilion.

"Millennium Park has become a unique gathering place right in the heart of downtown Chicago, where people from all over come to enjoy its magnificent art and architecture, as well as its free cultural programming," said Michelle T. Boone, Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events. "Now in its eighth season, the Park continues to be an international destination, delighting visitors from near and far."

"Music in Millennium Park will be more diverse than ever this year with the introduction of the new ***Loops and Variations*** series, said Angel Ysaguirre, Deputy Commissioner for Arts Programming, Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events. "We invite visitors and Chicagoans alike to grab a blanket and sit on the lawn, or take a seat and discover the sounds of summer, played out over the Pritzker Pavilion's state-of-the-art sound system." Highlights of the summer music season are listed below. A complete calendar will be released in mid-April.

Downtown Sound: New Music Mondays
May 28—July 30, Mondays at 6:30 p.m.

Check out an eclectic mix of cutting-edge indie rock, pop and rock veterans with ten concerts beginning Memorial Day and running throughout July. Highlights include Kelly Hogan (May 28), Jonathan Richman (June 4), Chico Trujillo (June 25) and Charles Bradley (July 16).

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News Of Nutrition

"How To "Get Your Plate In Shape"

A properly balanced plate can provide the nutrients you need with fewer calories and less fat-and still taste great.

(NAPSA)-According to the 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans, it's important to increase your focus on fruits and vegetables and your understanding of proper portion sizes. To help, the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (formerly the American Dietetic Association) offers suggestions on how to "Get Your Plate in Shape."

Fill half your plate with fruits and vegetables.

*Whether fresh, frozen or canned, a variety of vegetables-especially dark-green, red and orange vegetables, plus beans and peas-is an important part of your diet. Choose "reduced sodium" or "no-salt-added" canned vegetables.

*Add fruits to meals and snacks. Buy fresh fruits and those that are dried, frozen or canned in water or 100 percent juice.

Make at least half your grains whole.

*Choose 100 percent whole-grain breads, cereals, crackers, pasta and brown rice.

*Check the ingredients list on food packages to find whole-grain foods.

Drink fat-free or low-fat milk.

*Fat-free and low-fat milk have the same amount of calcium and other essential nutrients as whole milk but less fat and fewer calories.

*If you're lactose intolerant, try lactose-free milk or a calcium-fortified soy beverage.

Vary your protein choices.

*The protein food group includes seafood, nuts and beans, as well as lean meat, poultry and eggs.

*Twice a week, make seafood the protein on your plate and keep meat and poultry portions small and lean.

Cut back on sodium and empty calories from solid fats and added sugars.

*Drink water instead of sugary drinks.

Choose 100 percent fruit juice instead of fruit-flavored drinks.

*Compare sodium in foods and choose those with lower numbers. Add spices or herbs to season food instead of salt.

*Switch from solid fats to oils when preparing food.

"Foods like vegetables, fruits, whole grains, low-fat dairy products and lean-protein foods contain the nutrients you need without too many calories," explains registered dietitian and Academy spokesperson Andrea Giancoli. She also recommends avoiding oversized portions by using a smaller plate, bowl or glass.

Learn More

For more information on getting your plate in shape, visit www.eatright.org.

Comfort Food For Those With Diabetes

(NAPSA)-There's good news for people with diabetes who miss the simple pleasures of comfort food. A new cookbook puts a healthier spin on a number of familiar dishes.

It's estimated that nearly 26 million children and adults in the United States have diabetes. For many, finding a healthy way to enjoy family favorites, such as mac and cheese or brownies, can be a real challenge.

Fortunately, Robyn Webb, MS, LN, a 2012 Gourmand Award- winning cookbook author, nutritionist and the food editor of Diabetes Forecast magazine, has created "The American Diabetes Association

A new cookbook shows how to prepare classic comfort food for those with diabetes.

Diabetes Comfort Food Cookbook." Published by the American Diabetes Association-the leading publisher of books on diabetes-the book is filled with recipes designed to meet the dietary needs of people who have diabetes and for those who just want to eat well without the added calories and fat.

The book is also sprinkled with helpful tips and timesaving advice. For example, when it comes to fat, Webb suggests using real olive oil and butter, but only in small amounts.

Mollie Katzen, author of "Moosewood Cookbook," described Webb's book as "beautiful" and "compelling."

To learn more or to order, call (800) 232-6733 or visit www.diabetes.org/comfortfood.

HEALTHFUL EATING

A Delicious And Nutritious Probiotics Boost

(NAPSA)-Adding more probiotics to your diet can be a "feel good" experience.

Probiotics are "friendly" bacteria that perform useful functions that range from helping to keep your digestive tract running smoothly, to manufacturing vitamins, to protecting you from harmful bacteria.

According to Registered Dietitian Tamara Freuman, "Cultured dairy products-such as yogurts and kefirs-are among the tastiest, most convenient and time-tested vehicles for delivering a daily dose of probiotics."

For versatility and flavor, she recommends easy-to-digest kefir-drinkable yogurt-on its own, as a base for smoothies or in place of buttermilk, cream or condensed milk in just about any recipe.

"Kefir is a great way to satisfy creamy cravings without all the fat of buttermilk or cream," adds Freuman. "It's also an excellent source of probiotics, and now with new lactose-free kefir options, even the one in 10 Americans who, like me, are lactose intolerant can enjoy kefir without the tummy-troubling lactose."

The word "kefir" is thought to have derived from the Turkish word "keif" for "good feeling." Make your own good feelings by experimenting with kefir in your kitchen. Here's a recipe to get you started. Serve it as a tasty entree for warm-weather meals or pour it into shot glasses and top with grilled shrimp for a party-worthy appetizer with roasted corn, pico de gallo garnish and your favorite hot sauce.

Serve this creamy chilled avocado soup as an entree or an appetizer.

Chilled Avocado Soup

3 ripe avocados, pitted and peeled

2/3 cup frozen peas

1 cup Plain Kefir (such as Redwood Hill Farm goat milk kefir OR Green Valley Organics Lactose Free cow dairy kefir)

1/4 cup chopped cilantro

1Tbsp. chopped white onion

2 tsp. seeded and chopped jalapeno (to taste)

Juice of one lime

Water or chicken broth

Salt, to taste

Place avocados, peas, kefir, cilantro, onion, jalapeno and lime juice in a blender. Puree until smooth. Add warm water or chicken broth to thin out the soup. Add salt to taste. *Serves 4 to 6.*

For more kefir recipes, vi www.RedwoodHill.com and www.GreenValleyLactoseFree.com.

Cooking Ideas

(NAPSA) Vegetables, fruits, whole grains, low-fat dairy products and lean-protein foods contain the nutrients you need without too many calories,* says registered dietitian and Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (formerly the American Dietetic Association) spokesperson Andrea Giancoli. Learn more at www.eatright.org.

* * *

According to Registered Dietitian Tamara Freuman, *Cultured dairy products such as yogurts and kefirs are convenient vehicles for delivering probiotics." She recommends easily digested kefir from Redwood Hill Farm and Green Valley Organics Lactose Free. For kefir recipes, visit www. RedwoodHill.com and www.Green ValleyLactoseFree.com

* * *

Welch's Fruit Snacks contain real fruit and 100 percent of the recommended daily intake for vitamin C, says Registered Dietitian Julie Upton, MS, RD, of www.AppforHealth.com, a leading resource for nutrition information provided exclusively by nutrition professionals.

* * *

Busy couples don't have to let hectic schedules interfere with a great date night. With the help of Italy's No. 1-selling frozen pizza, Ristorante by Dr. Oetker, you can bring home a slice of romance. Learn more at www.oetker.us.

Steampunk Thursdays at Elate

by Annette Dixon

Partners Anthony Fiore, Luke Johnson, Chef Michael Noll, Managers Chris Barrientos and Ashley King invite you to try an entertainment evening every Thursday with Graham Czach along with his band the Time Machines.

They have a blend of Jazz, Techno and Hip Hop music. Personally it's very complex for me to understand, but my 15 year old grandson loved it and knew exactly their method of playing. He thanked me profusely and was happy as a lark for more than two hours. Of course the food helped to make him happy.

We tried the Salsiccia Pizza, and a selection of meat and cheese and went Italian that night.

Elate serves daily breakfast, lunch and dinner. Times vary for breakfast but lunch is between 11:00am until 2:30 pm, dinner is 5-10 pm and there are in between hours for midday dinners.

Elate is located at 111 West Huron St. next to Hotel Felix, open 7 days.

On a diet, they have salmon salads or ask for gluten free dishes. Mention Village View Newspaper when visiting this upscale casual modern restaurant.

Village of Orland Park Sportsplex Introduces FlexPass

Pass Offers Discount for Exercise or Pilates

The Village of Orland Park Sportsplex FlexPass allows customers to buy an exercise pass that includes discounted Pilates mat and fitness yoga, a Pilates reformer pass or Yogalates and the village's new Booty Barre class. Five or ten Pilates reformer classes are available.

Pilates is a body conditioning routine that helps build flexibility, muscles, strength and endurance in the legs, abdominals, arms, hips and back. It was designed by Joseph Pilates, a physical-culturist born in Germany in 1883. He developed a system of exercises during the first half of the 20th century intended to strengthen the human mind and body, believing that mental and physical health were related.

"The village's Pilates Program has really taken off at the Sportsplex," said Fitness Manager Deborah Geghen. "Pilates emphasizes pelvic and spinal alignment while using breathing techniques to relieve stress and allow adequate oxygen flow to muscles, developing a strong core, which improves coordination and balance," Geghen explained.

Geghen oversees the fitness programs at the village's Sportsplex and is a certified Pilates instructor. "The village's Sportsplex was one of the first facilities in the region to offer the Pilates reformer, chair and tower," Geghen said.

Individuals may purchase a Sportsplex FlexPass for an exercise pass that includes discounted rates for the Pilates Mat and Fitness Yoga or a Pilates Reformer Pass for five or ten classes or the new Booty Barre class.

The Sportsplex FlexPass offers the choice of days and times for participants and is not limited to Sportsplex members, being available for non-members, both village residents and non-residents.

Additional information about the Village of Orland Park Sportsplex and its FlexPass are available by visiting the facility at 11351 West 159th Street or by calling 708/645-PLAY.

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Oak Forest City Council considering home rule sales tax

On Tuesday, March 27, the Oak Forest City Council will vote on an ordinance to establish a one percent home rule sales tax, which would go into effect on July 1,2012. The sales tax would apply to tangible personal property. However, it would not apply to services or to the purchase of non-prepared food, prescription drugs or licensed vehicles.

"Our mantra over the past four years has been cut, cut, cut," said City Treasurer Dwayne Fox. "Despite our best cost-containment efforts, we cannot overcome a $4.2 million loss in income tax, sales tax and utility tax revenues while facing increasing costs of providing services.

A home rule sales tax would spread these costs to non-residents and diversify our revenues." Over the past few years, the City of Oak Forest has dramatically reduced its costs through layoffs, furlough days, wage freezes, and by delaying the purchase of vehicles, machinery and equipment. In fact, the most significant impact to the city's budget has been the decrease in employees through attrition and layoffs. To date, the city has decreased full-time employees by 12 percent and part-time employees by 50 percent. According to recent surveys,an average municipal government employs about six workers per 1,000 residents.

With only 111 employees, Oak Forest is operating with only 65 percent of that average workforce.While these cost-saving measures have made a dent in the bottom line, they have left the city in a precarious position. Mayor Hank Kuspa noted, "The city can no longer avoid hiring key personnel or postpone the purchase of essential equipment. We will not compromise the public's health and safety." Kuspa explained: "Services to residents will be critically diminished without adequate levels of personnel in key departments. Our goal has always been to deliver quality services at a reasonable cost. We are finding it increasingly difficult given the revenue shortfalls we have experienced over the past several years."

A one percent home rule sales tax is expected to generate $1.1 million annually. The revenue would be used to fill vacant positions that are critical to public health and safety, including police officers and firefighters, as well as a few part-time positions. Any additional revenue would be put into the city's capital improvement program, a plan developed to purchase vehicles, machinery and equipment that will be needed for city services in the future.

"The Oak Forest City Council has been adamant that we not put any additional property tax burden on our residents and businesses," Mayor Kuspa added. "A home rule sales tax would allow us to reach outside the community so that others that use our streets, our facilitiesand our services pay a fair share of the cost we now pay to provide them."

GROW It's time for another Garden Party

It's our 2nd Annual Potting Party, held at 115th Bourbon Street, Friday, April 6th 2012 at 7:00 p.m. until Midnight

Enjoy a full buffet and 5 hour open bar including draft beer, wind and soda. Dance to the best rock & roll hits with DJ Loren Gent of Fun!Fun!Fun! DJ's. The fun continues with a live art auction, silent auction and raffles.

Tickets are $30 in advance or $35 at the door. Please visit http://www.gardencenterservices.org/ for more information & to purchase tickets. Proceeds benefit Garden Center Services, a nonprofit agency supporting persons with disabilities.

Midlothian Public Library offers programs for April

Chocolate 101 Discover the Chocolate Renaissance and taste delicious Chocolates from around the globe at Midlothian Public Library, 14701 S. Kenton Ave., on Apr 12 at 7:00 PM. Chocolatier Kevin Roblee will be on hand to excite the conversation about chocolate and explain the finer attributes of chocolate enjoyment.

Additionally, everyone is invited up to the chocolate table to enjoy KOKKU -Distinctive Gourmet's unique and irresistible gourmet chocolate liquid couvertures (white and 4-chocolate) for dipping fondue style. Delicious bites will be provided for dipping with 3 different and distinct single origin and imported chocolates to taste.

Come learn about chocolate and its surprising, exotic aromas and flavor! Registration is required. Adults only, please. Register online at www.midlothianlibrary.org or by contacting the Midlothian Public Library Reference Desk at 708-535-2027.

Preserving Family RecipesCelebrate National Preservation week by combining food and scrapbooking to make scrap-cookbooks! Amy Alessio, author and librarian, will show us how on Thursday, April 26th , 7 pm at the Midlothian Public Library, 14701 S. Kenton Ave. Create a mini album and leave with a few decorations and ideas for preserving handwritten or favorite family recipes with style.

Please bring a few copies of your own recipes to include. A sample treat, all scrapbooking material and recipes will be provided. Registration is required. Adults only, please. Register online at www.midlothianlibrary.org or by contacting the Midlothian Public Library Reference Desk at 708-535-2027

Visit Village View Publication website
www.villageviewls.weebly.com

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Hours: Monday-Sunday 7am to 3pm
EGGMANS RESTAURANT
12701 S. Pulaski, Alsip (708) 239-8740
Hours: Monday-Sunday. 6am to 4pm
Senior Menu at Both Locations

Oak Lawn Community Church
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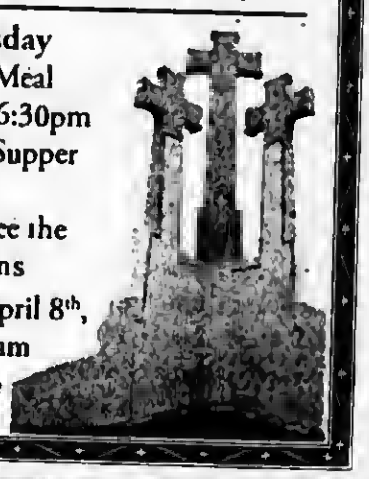
Call for information 708 / 599-4025
Maundy Thursday
Service & Seder Meal
Thursday, April 5th, 6:30pm
Celebrate the Last Supper
of our Lord
Come touch and see the
Crown of Thorns
Easter Sunday is April 8th,
Service at 10:30am
Bring fresh flowers to decorate the Living Cross, if you wish


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Expires May 31, 2012

After the Easter Egg Hunt visit the Easter Bunny

The Village of Oak Lawn is sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt on the Village Green on Saturday, April 7, 2012. Three Easter Egg Hunts are planned for children ages preschool through fourth grade at 11:30 a.m., 12:00 Noon and 12:30 p.m.

Bring your camera to take pictures of the children with the Easter Bunny in the gazebo. All children need to bring their own Easter basket to hunt. No preregistration required. The Oak Lawn Village Green is located at 94th & Cook Avenue ; north of the Oak Lawn Library.

Oak Lawn Public Library introduces new programs

Library Closed on April 19

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Avenue, will be closed Thursday, April 19 for the installation of a new Circulation Desk and display shelving units in the atrium. This new floor plan of the atrium and lobby area will reinforce the library's brand as "Your Discovery Destination" and offer a welcoming atmosphere; provide better patron service from a more functional, efficient and intimate Circulation area; and showcase library-wide materials on new face-out shelving featuring various genres and authors.

"The Descendants" movie screening originally scheduled for April 19 has been rescheduled for Thursday, May 3 at 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. For more information, please call the library at (708) 422-4990.

Curious? Read! Program

Curious young children, ages 2 to 7 years old, can improve their literacy skills by reading with their parents in the Oak Lawn Public Library's "Curious? Read!" program. All children who complete the program will receive small prizes. Registration begins Sunday, April 1.

Music and Dances of the Aragon, Trianon and O'Henry Ballrooms

Travel back to a time when dance halls were the place to be on weekends. Larry Bergnach will feature the famous Chicago ballrooms of the 1930s, 40s and 50s in "Music and Dances of the Aragon, Trianon and O'Henry Ballrooms" on Thursday, April 12 at 2 p.m. at the Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Ave.

Friends of the Oak Lawn Library Trip: Ethnic Chicago Southwest

The Friends of the Oak Lawn Library will host an Ethnic Chicago Southwest bus trip on Wednesday, May 23. In-person registration begins Saturday, April 14 at 9:30 a.m.

Experience a narrated tour through some of Chicago's richest cultural neighborhoods, including University Village, Little Italy and Bridgeport. Visit colorful Pilsen and the National Museum of Mexican Art, as well as the Jane Addams Hull House. While in Greektown, savor fine cuisine at Pegasus Restaurant on Halsted Street.

The bus will depart from the library at 9 a.m. and return at 4 p.m. The cost of the trip is $68 for Friends members and $73 for others. Members must present a current membership card or receipt to receive the $5 discount. Two ticket limit. Please be advised that this trip is not wheelchair accessible.

Music and Movement

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Avenue, will offer "Music and Movement" on Saturday, April 14 from 11-11:45 a.m. Musical educator Candy Heitner will lead children and adults in sing-alongs, interactive lap and circle games, and small percussion instruments. Advance registration required.

Free Concert: The Windy City Harmonica Club

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Avenue, will host a free concert from "The Windy City Harmonica Club" on Sunday, April 15 from 2-3 p.m. This versatile group of harmonica players will provide high energy songs and performances from the 1930s, 40s and 50s. Sponsored by the Friends of the Oak Lawn Library. No advance registration required.

View a complete listing of adult programs at www.oaklawnlibrary.org. For additional information, call (708) 422-4990.

The Green Teams

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Avenue, will host a free program for students in grades 1-5 titled "H2Officials" on Tuesday, April 17 from 4-5 p.m. Through exploring new ways to protect their environment, teams will create action plans, play games, make crafts and receive completion badges. Advance registration required. For more information about this and other programs, call (708) 422-4990 or visit www.oaklawnlibrary.org.

8th annual Stars and Stripes Gala benefit for the Children's Museum in Oak Lawn

Join us as we celebrate the 8th Annual "Stars & Stripes" Gala to benefit The Children's Museum in Oak Lawn Saturday, April 21, 2012. The place to be is at the Hilton Oak Lawn at 9333 South Cicero Ave, Oak Lawn, Illinois. Cocktails are at 6:30pm, 7:30pm is Dinner and Program Soaring Spirit Honorees include: Jerry Hurckes, The Oak Lawn Fire Department, The Oak Lawn Police Department, also enjoy the Musical Entertainment, Silent & Live Auction, Raffles, Dancing.

The ticket price is $125 and all proceeds support The Children's Museum in Oak Lawn, 5100 Museum Drive, Oak Lawn, IL 60453. Please RSVP before April 13, 2012 also this is a Black Tie Optional event.

For more information or to purchase tickets, please call Bernadette Shanahan-Haas at 708.423.6709 ext 204, or visit us online at www.CMOakLawn.org

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Come touch and see the
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Easter Sunday is April 8th,
Service at 10:30am
Bring fresh flowers to decorate the Living Cross, if you wish

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Polish & Lithuanian Cuisine
Banquets • Catering • Cocktails
April & May Special
Buy 1 Pint of Homemade Soup and get 1 Pint of Soup Free
Expires May 31, 2012

The Presbyterian Church in Orland Park

The Presbyterian Church in Orland Park will be holding Easter Services starting April 5th. The church is located at 13401 South Wolf Road, Orland Park. Their telephone number is 708-448-8142.

MAUNDY THURSDAY – April 5, 2012 7:30 p.m. On Maundy Thursday, we will remember the Last Supper and Passion of our Lord through music, scripture, meditation and the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

EASTER SUNDAY – April 8, 2012 8:30 a.m. - Easter Breakfast -The Men's Club will sponsor and serve their Annual Easter Breakfast. Please come and begin this special with breakfast at church.

Worship Service 10:00 am Easter is the highest day in the church year. It is the most important day for us as Christians.

Ms. Pat Roach, Mayor Harry Klein, Officer Michelson, Mrs. Marilyn Kurowski, Principal

St. Albert the Great Catholic School D.A.R.E. Graduation

Recently the 6th graders of St. Albert the Great Catholic School in Burbank celebrated their D.A.R.E. Graduation. The class was very fortunate to have Officer Robert Michelson of the Burbank Police Dept. as their teacher, and also their friend.

Elizabeth Dombos and Cole Geinosky wrote the winning essays and read them at the ceremony.

Meet your neighbors and friends for a Fish Fry

Marrs-Meyer American Legion #991 11001 S Depot-Worth, IL Fish Fry thru April 6th at 5:00 pm until 8:00 pm with Live Music. Music Friday and Saturday 8:00 PM until April 28th with Bobby Dunne Fridays and Live Variety Music Night on Saturdays.

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TO GET CAUGHT IN THE RAIN.
IT'S ANOTHER FOR EVERYTHING
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Just a few inches of floodwater can end up costing thousands of dollars in repairs, and flood damage isn't covered by homeowners insurance.
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Aglow International meets at Mama Luigi

Barbara Vaughn, an Elder at the Presbyterian Church in Western Springs, will speak at the February meeting. She is working towards ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. Her church activities include editing the church newsletter, singing in the choir and playing in the Hand Bell choir. She also taught Bible Study and helped with confirmation classes.

Currently, she serves as pulpit supply at Oak Lawn Community Church and other churches. Barbara has a Master of Divinity degree and a Bachelor degree in Music Education. She and her husband of 25 years have two grandchildren and two cuddly cats. Bring a friend to hear "Exploring God's Call" and be blessed. The Oak Lawn Chapter of Aglow International will meet on Thursday, April 12, 2012 at Mama Luigi's Restaurant, 7500 S. Harlem, Bridgeview, Illinois at 7PM..Dinner tickets are $13.00, available at 6:30PM at the door.

Dinner is served promptly at 7:00PM. Reservations are required by April 10th . Aglow International is an interdenominational organization of renewed Christian women, with over 2,600 fellowships which regularly hold meetings, retreats, and conferences on six continents. Aglow holds bible studies and publishes leadership training materials, books, and tracts, reaching out to women in prisons and hospitals, teenage girls, with intercessory prayer groups and support groups. For additional information, call June Hamer at 708-424-1656.

Guildhaus is celebrating their 25 years of service at an open house

Please join us in celebrating 25 years of service on Sunday, June 3, 2012 at 2413 Canal Street, Blue Island, IL 60406

Open House begins at 4:00pm until 5:30pm Dinner is being service next door at Maple Tree Inn at 5:30pm. It's an open Speaker Meeting, which is a 12 Step at 7:00pm.

Dinner Ticket Donation: $50.00 must be purchased in advance no later than May 21, 2012, Raffle Tickets: $50.00 (1st Prize: $3,000.00, 2nd Prize: $1,500.00, 3rd Prize: $750.00)

To purchase dinner or raffle tickets, please call 708-385-3228 or http://guildhaus.org/25th

Guildhaus is a not-for-profit men's halfway house founded by Jack King. Jack was a retired Chicago Fireman who had a vision of providing long term support to men who were struggling to recover from drug and alcohol addiction. He was able to see his vision become a reality when he opened the doors of Guildhaus on December 31, 1987.

It is Guildhaus' mission to deliver conscientious, compassionate support to Guildhaus men establishing a solid recovery foundation, providing assistance in their transition to a drug- and alcohol- free lifestyle. Our ultimate goal is to see these men return home and rebuild relationships with their families and communities.

Civil War expert to lecture at Moraine Valley

Ted Karamanski, professor of History at Loyola University, will discuss Chicago's role in the Civil War at Moraine Valley Community College on Thursday, April 5, at 2 p.m. The event will be in the Library, Building L, on campus, 9000 W. College Pkwy., Palos Hills. It is free and open to the public.

According to Josh Fulton, instructor of History at Moraine Valley, Karamanski is the only author in the past 30 years who has written a book on the subject of Chicago and the Civil War. The book, "Rally 'Round the Flag: Chicago and the Civil War," was published in 2006 and examines the people and events that formed this critical period in Chicago's history. He uses diaries, letters and newspapers that survived the Chicago Fire to show how the opinions of Chicago residents evolved from a patriotic view of the war to recognition of the conflict's brutality.

In addition to teaching and writing, Karamanski is a consultant to the National Park Service on the origins and development of National Parks in the Great Lakes region and has been interviewed for films about Chicago.

Evergreen Park District announces April programs

Tae Kwon Do Classes , Little Dragons (4-5 yrs) 4:30 until 5:10 P.M. Early Taekwondo (6-7 yrs) 5:15 until 6:00 P.M. Youth Taekwondo (8-13 yrs), 6:05 intil 6:50 P.M.

A $45.00 uniform fee is required at the first class of the childs second session. Belt test is offered 2x per year through KH Kim Taekwondo for an additional fee of $70.00.

All colored belt students are required to have complete sparring gears. Fee: $64.00 for 8 weeks Day: Tuesday , Starting April 10th Location: Community Center, 3450 West 97th St .

Girls Night Out! Girls 2nd thru 5th grade - Easter activities, make a craft, decorate cookies, and get your nails done! Thus, April 5th, 6:00 until 8:00 P.M. $15.00 per person

On going registration for Wiffle t-ball 3-5 yr. olds days offered Wed, Thurs. and Sat. Call for availability!

On going registration for Spring Tumbling 4 yrs and up day offered , Tues., after 4:00 P.M., Call for availability.

FAMILY EASTER HAPPENINGS! Please join us for an Easter experience, have a continental breakfast with the Easter Bunny. Bring your camera and take a picture with the Bunny, make and take a Easter craft, watch Easter cartoons and dye an Easter egg and have a lot of family fun! Children's ages, babies through 11 years old. This all happens at the Community Center, 3450 W. 97th St. , on Saturday, March 31ST, at 10:00 a.m. , ending at 11:30 a.m., and its all Free.

All children are to be accompanied by an adult! Preschool for ages 3-5. Registration ongoing for the fall 2012-2013 school year! Look for our summer book, being mailed to all residents early April and will be on the website www.evergreenpark-ill.com!- Registration starts 5/10/12, 9a.m.-8pm .

Visit Village View Website www.villageviewls.weebly.com

Big Run Wolf Ranch Season Opener

Saturday, April 28, 2012 10:00 am until 4:00 pm Admission $4.00 Food, Drinks, Clothing, Jewelry, Raffles, Music Seasonal Passes and Adoptions Available Schedule Camping, Birthday Parties, and Field Trips Special Guests: Jim Nesci's Cold-Blooded Creatures Hold a 16 ft python, a monitor lizard, & ride "Bubba" the alligator, and "Tank" the tortoise Special Appearance by "Spunky" the Monkey Parking available at Wal-Mart 16241 Farrell Rd Lockport with free nonstop shuttle bus service to the ranch *Handicapped Parking available at ranch.*

Big Run Wolf Ranch is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, federally licensed, wildlife education facility featuring rescued North American wildlife. Come see "Kuma" the black bear, our 9 wolves, cougar "Charlie", coyotes, woodchuck, porcupine, raccoons, horses, and many other wild and domestic animals. Come enjoy up close and personal wildlife lectures going on continuously throughout the day along with guided and unguided tours of our facility. Big Run Wolf Ranch www.bigrunwolfranch.org 14857 Farrell Road bigrunwolf@aol.com Lockport , IL 60441 (815) 588-0044 Directions: www.expedia.com or www.mapquest.com

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(L to R) Martin Rayner stars as "Sigmund Freud" and Mark H. Dold stars as "C.S. Lewis" in the Midwest premiere of FREUD'S LAST SESSION at the Mercury Theater (3745 N. Southport, Chicago), March 26 through June 3. For tickets and information contact the Mercury Theater at 773-325-1700 or www.mercurytheaterchicago.com.
Photo Credit: Carol Rosegg

Freud's Last Session closes June 3rd at Mercury Theater

by Annette Dixon

Well I didn't expect to see a play that I would enjoy, understand and be thankful the dialogue brought us back to Freud's theories. This play was about a meeting between two respected colleagues having an intelligent profound conversation about life, mainly Freud's last days. The expression of the word genius was certainly apropos in describing this production. As a friend said, "this was done so well, with only the two men carrying this play for 80 minutes.".

Mark St. Germain's play is in its second successful year in New York. The off Broadway premiere at Mercury Theater stars Mark H. Dold as C.S. Lewis and Marin Rayner as Sigmund Freud who are outstanding, as they were well received by all in attendance. You can tell when leaving the theater if the play was well received . Surely this was!

The performance schedule is Wednesdays at 2pm and 7:30pm. Thursdays at 7:30pm. Fridays at 8pm, Saturdays at 2pm and 8pm and Sundays at 1pm and 5pm. Tickets range from $55 to $45. Student tickets are $22 (with valid student ID) and a limited number of rush tickets are available at the box office beginning three hours prior to each performance. Appropriate for ages thirteen (13) and up.

For tickets and information contact the Mercury Theater at 773-325-1700 or www.mercurytheaterchicago.com. For groups of ten or more, call Group Theater Tickets at 312.423.6612.

Chicago Shakespeare Theater (CST) announced casting for its 25th Anniversary Season finale

William Shakespeare's rarely produced Timon of Athens is directed by CST Artistic Director Barbara Gaines and featuring Tony Award winner Ian McDiarmid in the title role. Performed in CST's Courtyard Theater from April 24 to June 10, 2012, Gaines' production also features Sean Fortunato as Flavius, James Newcomb as Apemantus and Danforth Comins as Alcibiades.

A cautionary tale about the seductive power of wealth, Gaines' Timon of Athens is set in the world of high-risk futures trading, where Timon is a god among men. But when the tides of monetary fortune turn and his former friends become ruthless creditors, Timon is left in financial freefall. Leading the cast of Gaines' production in the title role is internationally celebrated actor Ian McDiarmid, who won the Tony Award for Best Performance by a Featured Actor in a Play for his performance as Teddy in Brian Friel's Faith Healer (2006), co-starring Ralph Fiennes and Cherry Jones. McDiarmid's additional credits include productions with the Royal Shakespeare Company and Six Characters in Search of an Author on London's West End (2008), as well as an appointment as the Joint Artistic Director of London's Almeida Theatre from 1990 to 2001, during which Almeida won the 1993 Laurence Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in an Affiliate Theatre. He is also well known for his film and television appearances, and is perhaps most famous for his chilling performance as the Emperor in George Lucas's 1983 Star Wars Return of the Jedi, and later as Senator Palpatine in the Star Wars prequels.

"I've long admired Ian as a consummate theater artist—an actor, director and remarkable artistic director when, with Jonathan Kent in the 1990's, he led brilliant work at London's Almeida Theatre," says CST Artistic Director Barbara Gaines. "We've been looking for a project to work on together and collaborating with Ian for the first time on Timon of Athens has been a perfect confluence of circumstance, affording us the opportunity to create an incisive approach to Shakespeare's original text in a timely production for our audience featuring Ian performing the title role." says Barbara Gaines.

Commenting on Shakespeare's Timon of Athens, Ian McDiarmid says, "It is very much a play for now. Shakespeare proves once again to be our close contemporary, reflecting, in this instance, a culture luxuriating in unearned wealth and then shocked and bereft by the sudden lack of it; a state exactly mirrored by Timon himself."

Joining McDiarmid in the role of Flavius is Chicago Shakespeare Theater veteran actor and four-time Jeff Award nominee Sean Fortunato. Frequent Oregon Shakespeare Festival company members James Newcomb and Danforth Comins perform the roles of Apemantus and Alcibiades, respectively. Comins last appeared at CST as Banquo in Gaines' production of Macbeth, and Newcomb appeared in the Theater's multiple Jeff Award-winning production The Madness of George III last season. Kevin Gudahl, performing the role of Poet/Judge, returns for his 31st role at CST. Additional actors returning for Gaines' production include: Sean Blake as Timander; William Dick as Jeweller/Senator; Terry Hamilton as Ventidius/Old Senator; David Lively as Sempronius; Samuel Taylor as Lucius/Thief; Demetrios Troy as Banker/Varro/Thief; and Bruce A. Young as Lucullus. Timothy Edward Kane, who is currently performing the role of Oberon/Theseus in CST's A Midsummer Night's Dream through April 7, will return to perform the role of Painter. Rounding out the cast for Timon of Athens are John Byrnes as Caphis, ensemble members Wesley Daniel and David Schlumpf, and dancers/ensemble members Jen Donohoo, Noelle Kayser, Luke Manley, Bianca Lozano Sanders, and Malachi Squires.

In addition to choreography by Joffrey Ballet Master Nicolas Blanc, Gaines' creative team for Timon of Athens includes Scenic Designer Kevin Depinet, Costume Designer Susan E. Mickey, Lighting Designer Robert Wierzel, Projection Designer Mike Tutaj, Composition and Sound Designer Lindsay Jones, Wig and Makeup Designer Melissa Veal, Fight Director James Newcomb, Verse Coach Kevin Gudahl and Properties Master Chelsea Meyers.

Chicago Shakespeare Theater's Timon of Athens runs from April 24 to June 10, 2012 in CST's Courtyard Theater. Tickets are on sale now for $44–$75 with special discounts available for groups of 10 or more. All patrons receive a 40% discount on guaranteed parking in Navy Pier garages. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Chicago Shakespeare Theater's Box Office at 312.595.5600 or visit the Theater's website at www.chicagoshakes.com.

Melanie Marshall (Funmilayo) and Sahr Ngaujah (Fela Anikulapo)-Kuri)

Fela will remain at the Oriental Theatre until April 15th

by Annette Dixon

The story is about an actual person named Fela Anikulapo-Kuti who became a renown musician in Europe and Africa. He was born in Abeokuta, Nigeria studied in London and developed the Afrobeat. He was born in 1938 and passed away in 1997 and throughout his years he was in trouble with the Nigerian government for his outspoken protest music.

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Beware Identity Theft During Tax Season

(NAPSA)-According to a recent survey, many people engage in behavior online that could lead to identity theft during tax season, often due to some common misconceptions about the risks of preparing and submitting tax documents-but you may be able to avoid these behaviors.

Here's a look at the problems:

Online Passwords

Most people are aware of the possible risks of sharing personal information during a transaction; 88 percent worry the organization they share personal information with could suffer a data breach, yet only 31 percent have a unique password for each site they use.

Online Tax Submission

Respondents expressed mistrust of their tax preparers, with 53 percent concerned about identity theft.

Postal mail continued to be the most trustworthy of delivery options with 60 percent listing it as the most secure way to file their taxes. Nevertheless, 53 percent submit taxes online.

IRS Contact Methods

Too many respondents don't know how the IRS contacts tax payers: 40 believe it can be via e-mail, mail or phone. The IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers through e-mail.

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Here are a few tips to help you:

When Preparing Your Return

1. Be aware of suspicious e-mails and phone calls about your refund, filing or stimulus checks-Check with the IRS at www.irs.gov to learn how to spot scammers and thieves posing as the IRS and a list of known phishes.

2. Be diligent choosing a tax preparer-Work with a credible firm and be extra cautious about new or seasonal offices. Check the IRS website for advice on choosing a tax preparer.

3. Secure your computer-If you file electronically, be sure to install updated firewalls and anti-spyware protection.

During and After Filing

1. Mail securely-If you file via mail, do so directly from the post office, not in an unlocked mailbox. Use first class mail with a tracking number.

2. Safeguard sensitive in_formation-Keep paperwork in a safe location at home. Outside, make sure it's not visible.

3. Microshred your documents-Cross-cut shredders just don't "cut" it these days. A micro-cut shredder literally turns documents into dust.

Get Identity Theft Protection

For extra identity protection, consider enrolling in an identity theft protection program such as PrivacyGuard. Its triple-bureau credit monitoring scans your credit files every day and quickly alerts you to any problems.

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In Memory of William "Sky" Apodaca

An Indian Prayer
O! GREAT SPIRIT...
Whose voice I hear in the winds. And whose breath gives life to all the world, Hear me! I am small and weak, I need your strength and wisdom.
LET ME WALK IN BEAUTY, and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset.
MAKE MY HANDS respect the things you have made and my ears sharp to hear your voice.
MAKE ME WISE so that I understand the things you have taught my people.
LET ME LEARN the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock.
I SEEK STRENGTH, not to be greater than my brother, but to fight my greatest enemy-myself
MAKE ME ALWAYS READY, to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes.
SO WHEN LIFE FADES, as the fading sunset, my spirit may come to you without shame.

William "Sky" Apodaca, age 53, of Hot Springs, died Saturday, March 31, 2007.

He was born on January 13, 1954 at Fort Knap, Montana. He was a member of the Hunkpapa Sioux Indian tribe and a direct descendant of Sitting Bull. He was a friend to the Red Wolf Band of the United Lumbee Indian Nation.

He was a member of the Gospel Light Baptist Church. Mr. Apodaca was an Army veteran of the Vietnam era. He worked for the last 11 years for Diversified Construction. He was a friend to all, and proud of his Indian heritage and service to his country.

He is survived by his fiancee, Linda Steiner of Hot Springs; and many loving friends.

My Brothers
Do not cry for me my friends, for now i feel no pain
Now I ride with those that you can only dream about
I dance in the celestial circle of life with the great ones
The very things I could only dream about while I lived on earth
My body is now strong, my eyes clear, my heart sings
But it is you, who must now walk the path,
So stay true to the circle of life,
Put out your hand to those who are lost as I once was
As you once held my hand now hold theirs
So they to can ride with the great ones
And dance with us in the grut Circle of life
Do not remember me in this frail body as you see me now
For now I am young, I am strong, as I was in days gone by
This is the way I want you to remember me
I will be watching the mist as I wait for you my brothers

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SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 38 | Number 20 | April 17, 2012

Burbank, Evergreen Park, Hickory Hills, Justice, Oak Lawn

Evergreen Park begins street projects

by Matt Mayer

Public Works Director Bill Lorenz outlined the 2012, $2.7 million street resurfacing projects at the April 2 Evergreen Park Board of Trustees meeting. The resurfacing project, which has already begun in the southwest quadrant on Central Park Avenue, includes 96th, 97th, 98th Streets from Central Park Avenue to the Canadian National Railroad tracks as well as Klein Park. The project also consists of new gutters and curbs.

"We've been getting a lot of complaints regarding pot holes", said Lorenz. The project is slated for completion by the 4th of July. The streets will remain open for resident parking said Lorenz. Mayor James Sexton said, "There will be some headaches but bear with us, we will be working from west to east. The area around Circle [Klein] Park will be the first to be torn up and improved".

Other highlights: A request from Michael Hartes on behalf of Bleekers Bowl, Barraco's and Hartes for a 3 a.m. for a class A liquor license was approved 5-1, Trustee Carol Kyle dissented. The 3 a.m. license will be for approximately 7 days during this spring and summer of this year. The change, which includes July 3, the day of the Independence Day Parade, will increase revenues for the businesses, said Hartes.

Sexton said he supports the request but stressed that he will not allow a permanent 3 a.m. change. "The village changed the liquor hours from 3 a.m. to 2 a.m. two years ago because police were spending more time controlling people in bars than catching bad guys on the street", said Sexton.

A request from residents of the 8800 and 8900 blocks of Richmond Avenue for a 4 way stop sign at 89th and Richmond Avenue was approved as well as a resolution approving the 44th Annual Independence Day Parade on Tuesday, July 3.

In other village news the Provo Group recently sold the mall, which is in pre foreclosure. The new owners are expected to announce in May or June whether the mall will be demolished or altered.

How does watermath work in Justice

by Jan Glaz

On Monday April 9th at the Village of Justice Board of Trustees Meeting a concerned resident questioned the drastic increase in water rates in justice. The citizen explained that he did the math on the wholesale rate paid to the City of Chicago and with the raise of 25% it will be $2.29 per thousand gallons of water as opposed to the previous $1.75 per thousand gallons. Based on his bill, he was paying $4.80 per thousand gallons and now he's being billed at a rate of $8.32 per thousand. The village revenue at the old rate was $3.05 per thousand above the cost of the water they obtained from Chicago and now the new revenue rate for Justice will be $6.13 per thousand, more than double.

Mayor Kris Wasowicz replied that the math works like this: last year the village did not raise the rates but this year they raised the rate 25% plus a 5% surcharge. Wasowicz further explained that 80% of the residents use on average 6000 gallons or less within two months and if they use above 6000, every next gallon is raised 30% to $7.90 per thousand gallons. The reason for the higher surcharge is that the infrastructure, which is over 50 year old, has to be fixed and the money will build a fund for its replacement. "Next year there is a 15% increase coming and the year after that there is another 15% coming from the city of Chicago, it's a given. So, if we can build up the fund to the point where we can comfortably start doing the projects that are necessary to provide the service, we will not raise next year the 15%, and God willing if everything works the way we plan we can raise the limit again to 8000 gallons," said the Mayor.

Noteworthy Approvals before the close of the meeting: NIMEC (Northern Illinois Municipal Electric Collaborative) approved as consultants for the Village of Justice Municipal Electric Aggregation Program and authorization for the village attorney to review and negotiate the terms of the agreement; a business license for Consumer Advantage Inc. doing business at 8646 S. Roberts Road, Unit #108, in Justice.

Oak Lawn to hire assistant village manager

by Matt Mayer

For the first time in the history of Oak Lawn, officials approved the hiring of an assistant village manager at the April 10 Oak Lawn Board of Trustees meeting. Trustee Alex Olejniczek (D-6) said at a previous meeting that officials have been considering creating this position to help take the burden off of village manager, Larry Deetjen, who has been village manager since 2007 at a yearly salary of $166,536 per year. Trustee Cynthia Trautsh (D-1) began the public discussion by asking if an assistant village manager was ever considered.

Deetjen responded that a hiring of this position was possible and also said this would be a good experience for a person to work with a "seasoned manager" like himself. He suggested that if the village decided to create such a position they should chose an assistant from the International City / County Management Association (ICCMA) fellowship program.

Officials concurred with Deetjen's suggestion to hire an assistant village manager from the ICCMA by a 4-1 vote, Trustee Bob Streit dissented and Trustee Carol Quinlan was absent. A maximum salary of $40,000 for one year along with relocation expenses would be offered with a stipulation that the assistant village manager reside in the village. "The fellows in the program are recent degree - earners that have been named among the top 50 public administration talents in the United States. The fellowship is a one year program however if the assistant village manager does well the position could be extended to three years," said Deetjen.

Other highlights: Police Chief Bill Villanova outlined a program which includes a website and will also encompass Burbank, Bridgeview and Evergreen Park police departments. The website is called "Police to Citizen" or "P2C" and lists the names of persons arrested or that have warrants for their arrest as well as sex offender information. Links to Cook County jail and State Police web sites including inmate information along with emergency notifications, press releases, weather information and bike registration information will be available. The link to P2C will soon be added to the village website and will be accessible at www.oaklawnecomm.org/

State Rep. Kelly Burke Fighting to Reduce Pension Costs, Encourage Fiscal Responsibility

To increase fiscal responsibility and rein in skyrocketing pension obligations, legislation sponsored by state Rep. Kelly Burke (D-Evergreen Park) to reduce cost of living adjustment (COLA) provisions for members of the General Assembly Retirement System (GARS) and Judges Retirement System (JRS) recently passed the Illinois House.

"This measure can help reduce pension costs and save the state much-needed money," Burke said. "By reducing pension cost of living adjustments, legislators and judges will be leading by example. At a time when we are asking residents to do more with less, elected officials must be doing the same."

House Bill 4666 reduces cost of living adjustment (COLA) provisions for members of the General Assembly Retirement System and Judges Retirement System hired after the effective date of the legislation. When the new two-tier pension system was enacted, COLA provisions were diminished for most state systems including GARS and JRS. Burke's legislation further reduces COLA provisions for GARS and JRS members to the lesser of 3 percent or one-half of an economic indicator used to reflect changes in the prices of goods and services known as the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

"By reducing pension obligations and saving the state money, we are moving in the right direction" Burke said. "I will continue working to get the state on the right track by passing fiscally-responsible legislation aimed at saving taxpayer dollars."

Burke's 36th Representative District includes all or parts of Oak Lawn, Evergreen Park, Chicago Ridge, Hometown, Hickory Hills, Palos Hills and Chicago's 18th, 19th, and 21st wards. For more information, please contact Burke's office at (708) 425-0571 or e-mail her at KellyB@ilga.gov.

Village View

We serve our community with good news!

FAR SOUTH EDITION

Volume 10 | Number 8 | April 17, 2012

Oak Forest, Orland Park, Tinley Park

Orland searches for Pension Relief

by Jan Glaz

At the request of Governor Pat Quinn the City Council approved a resolution 'Urging Municipal Inclusion in Pension Working Group', on Monday April 2nd. In Illinois five pension funds have unfunded liability to the tune of $85 billion dollars. The goal of a Working Group is to recommend reforms that can be advanced through legislation but at this time none of the discussions include finding solutions to address municipal police and firefighter pension debt obligations. The issue of downstate and suburban pension cost relief must be included in any discussion of pension reforms; furthermore, all recommendations are scheduled to be made by April 17th.

Drugs: It was announced that the Village of Orland Park will host a drug take back day. No longer needed prescription drugs are to be collected in participation with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). "The Village of Orland Park is glad to be a part of this program. Initiatives like this help keep these prescription drugs from getting into the wrong hands," said Mayor Dan McLaughlin. On Saturday, April 28, from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm, area residents may bring no longer needed prescription drugs to the Orland Park Police Station, 15100 South Ravinia Avenue and to the entrance at Smith Crossing at 10500 Orland Parkway. The service is confidential and free of charge but the service cannot accept glass containers, aerosol canisters, intravenous solutions or syringes.

Of Interest: Board approval of a Special Use Permit for petitioner HOTSide Crossfit. HOTSide Crossfit previously operated out of a racquetball court on the Silver Lake golf course. Not a normal Gym experience, Crossfit is a specific type of workout that may combine elements of sprinting, rowing, jumping rope, climbing rope, weightlifting, kettlebells and/or other equipment and bodyweight exercises. Many participants of Crossfit compete in local, statewide and national competitions. Crossfit's new space is: 15434 70th Court, in Orland Park.

A new deck for a Historical Landmark dating back to the 1880's was approved before the meeting adjourned. The two-story Italianate structure located at 9925 W. 143rd Street was constructed as a residence and is now in commereial use. It is listed in the 2008 Residential Area Intensive Survey (RAIS) as a contributing structure to the Orland Park Historic District. The new deck will incorporate an exterior staircase into the new design and eliminate the mid-level landing creating an "open" view.

Interested in more about your Community look at our website www.villageviewls.weebly.com

Smith Senior Living intern to employee success story reflects growing demand for retirement communities

At Smith Crossing, a retirement community in Orland Park serving the southwest region of Chicago, payday is Miguel Candelas' favorite day. That's because as a human resources assistant he gets to distribute paychecks. "People always are so happy to see me," he says. "I just love doing this."

"At Smith Crossing, we're looking to hire the very best people, and that requires reading people correctly," Candelas says. As an example, he says that sometimes it's necessary to screen-out applicants who make hollow claims. "I may interview someone who's never had a job requiring interaction with people who keeps insisting they excel at being 'a people person.' There's also a lot of information that also comes by paying attention to body language."

In addition to conducting preliminary interviews with job applicants, Candelas now posts job openings online and notifies Smith Crossing employees of openings as well. He also reviews applications, reviews behavioral surveys, sets up interviews, and processes documentation relating to health insurance, background checks, vaccines and other human resources matters.

It wasn't that long ago when Candelas was on the other side of the job interviewing process. "Miguel turned out to have all of the strengths we were looking for," says Karen Jellema, human resources director for Smith Senior Living. "He's very detail oriented. He can juggle a lot of different responsibilities and projects. And, he has the right personality in that he never gets too rattled and remains cheerful."

A 2011 graduate of Robert Morris College with a bachelor's degree in business administration, Candelas joined Smith Senior Living while completing an internship at Smith Village. "I immediately loved the Smith culture," Candelas says.

"I think the perception a lot of people have of retirement communities is somber, but I found it wasn't like that at all at Smith Village and Smith Crossing. The residents were vibrant, and there were lots of family members coming and going, lots of young people volunteering, and plenty of activities.

Electricity warning in Oak Forest

by Jan Glaz

Public Works Director Troy Ishler made an announcement at the Oak Forest City Council Meeting held on April 10th concerning the recently passed electrical aggregation referendum. He stated that because village aggregation will soon be coming to Oak Forest electric suppliers have been aggressively pursuing homes and businesses with offers to switch electric service. Ishler warned that anyone who signs up with another electric company will be excluded from the opportunity of the village contract at the time they go out to bid. "You will not even receive a letter, because it's state law," said Ishler. Troy's final warning: "I would caution on one thing that to make sure if you're signing a contract with another company that there's no fee to get out of the contract, so that if you're interested in joining the city's, when we do it, because we predict we will have lower prices, you can get out of your contract." To learn more pertaining to electrical aggregation two public hearings are scheduled for April 24th and May 8th at 7 p.m. at City Hall.

SPECIAL OAK FEST: An agreement for Oak Fest 2012 met with approval. City Clerk Scott Burkhardt announced that this year is the 25th anniversary of the Fest. To celebrate the anniversary, Oak Fest has scheduled a Cireus and has extended Oak Fest to a full seven days from June 20th thru July 4th.

Oak Forest First: The last item of public interest is the approval of a 'Water Rate Study' in Oak Forest. Due to the recent water rate increases, the city decided to conduct a true water rate survey, the city's first, to determine what the city should be charging for water and sewer services as compared to other communities. Manhard Consulting is commissioned to conduct the analysis at a cost of $18,000; the money will be coming out of the Water System Improvement Fund, which is under budget.

Village View

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SOUTH SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 13 | Number 8 | April 17, 2012

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

Palos Heights to pay and redeem General Obligation Bonds

by Matt Mayer

An ordinance was approved at the April 3 Palos Heights City Council meeting calling for the payment and redemption of the General Obligation Library Bonds Series 2003, dated January 7, 2003 in the amount of $1,050,000 on June 1, 2012, subject to review and approval of the library's financial documents. This ordinance request was deferred from the March 6 city council meeting.

Other highlights: An ordinance allowing the city attorney Tom Brown to draft an ordinance for a nonconforming use in a "B" district to allow for a Goodwill Drop off Donation Center at 6541 W. 127th Street received a 4 to 4 vote. Mayor Robert Straz voted to break the tie and the request was passed.

Some officials had expressed objections since this is a drop off center only, and the city would not receive any tax dollars from this business. However other businesses in this strip mall were in favor of the store, saying it would increase foot traffic and possibly bring in addition customers to their businesses.

A resolution to amend the hours to close a portion of Harlem Avenue for the 4th of July Parade from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon to 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. was approved as well as a ordinance to vacate a portion of the 68th Avenue right-of-way.

A resolution to allow the city to work in the state right-of-ways and a motion to authorize the city clerk to advertise for bids for the 2012 road program pending the approval of the Illinois Department of Transportation [IDOT] was approved.

A resolution to approve the expenditure of the Motor Fuel Tax [MFT] funds for the 2012 program in an amount not to exceed $320,000.00 was also approved

A request from the building department's for a one year maintenance agreement for a Hot Wave 300 large capacity copier for $40 per month was approved as well as a request to purchase a one-ton Chevy pickup truck in an amount not to exceed $25,000.00.

A request to pay Schwartz Construction Company for the salt storage facility in the amount of $20,769.69, which is fifty percent of the retain age, was also approved.

A public hearing will be held on April 17 at 6:15 p.m. at the city hall regarding the passage of the electric aggregation resolution on the March 20 primary ballot, which authorizes the city to negotiate for electric rates.

The purpose of the hearing is to obtain information regarding the Electric Residential Aggregation plan for residents and small businesses in the city.

A copy of the proposed plan is available for public review in the city clerk's office during regular business hours.

Palos Park approves a special use for a nursing home

by Matt Mayer

An ordinance at the April 9, Palos Park Village Council meeting to amend an Ordinance 2006-27, which was adopted on June 12, 2006, and once again amended by Ordinance 2007-20 which was adopted May 14, 2007, and an R-5 special development district planned unit development, and a special use for assisted living residences and a nursing home was approved. Holy Family Villa will operate this at the northeast corner of Will Cook Road and McCarthy Road, which will be located on the Catholic Charities portion of the property.

Other highlights: The village council approved an ordinance declaring certain personal property owned by the village as surplus to authorize the donation of the surplus property to Technology Exchange Network was approved as well as a contract with Wilson Rental for $11,841.13 for Autumn in the Park. The village council also concurred with the zoning board of appeals regarding fence variances at 9320 W. 122 Street.

Chipping service for public owned residential streets begins at the east end of the village and continues west until all streets have been serviced. Residents of private streets must submit a request for service no later than the Wednesday before the chipping week. Branches must be set out prior to 7:00 a.m. on Monday during the weeks of April 16, May 7, May 21, June 11, July16, August 13, September 10, October 8, and October 29. The final week for branch chipping is the week of October 29, 2012. Additional information may be obtained by visiting the village website at www.palospark.org or by calling the municipal building at 361-3700.

From the desk of Robert E. Maloney Palos Township Assessor

We wish to inform the residents of Palos Township that the time period to file a property assessment appeal application will be from April 10, 2012 to May 9, 2012. Palos Township is located at 10802 S Roberts Rd., Palos Hills. We are open Monday through Friday, 8:30A.M. to 4:30P.M.

For more information, please call 708-598-4418. PLEASE NOTE: Property tax increases are directly related to the amount of money local taxing bodies request for spending. Therefore, even in a declining market, tax bills will not go down unless taxing bodies reduce spending.

Interested in reading more news on our website? www.villageviewls.weebly.com/

Sheep shearing at the Children's Farm

Sheep will be sheared at the Children's Farm, t2700 Southwest Highway in Palos Park , on Sunday, April 22, as part of the annual "Sheep to Shawl" event from noon until 4 pm .

The sheep will be led to the shearing arena at 1:30 p.m. , accompanied by the bagpipes and drums of the Emerald Society of the Chicago Police Department, one of whose members, Ed Higgins, is an active volunteer at the farm.

Professional shearers will then demonstrate both electric and hand shearing. In addition to shearing, guests can witness the next few steps of the process of turning sheep's wool into clothes, as well as visiting all of the animals in the barns between noon and 4 p.m. Several baby animals have already arrived this spring, including calves, lambs, ducklings, chicks and one baby goat. Baby bunnies and more goat kids are expected soon. After the sheep shearing, children will be invited to make a "sheep to shawl" craft to take home, using the newly shorn wool.

Admission to the farm is $5.00 per person. Hotdogs, chips, and soda pop will be on sale for lunch. For further information, interested persons should call The Center at (708) 361-3650.

Southern India Luncheon

Southern India and Sri Lanka are the topics of a luncheon on Tuesday, April 24 from 12 noon to 2 p.m., at The Center, 12700 Southwest Highway, Palos Park, John and Lenette Staudinger will show slides of their trip into the contemporary Indian states of Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Their photos show the area that provided the backdrop for the film "A Passage to India," where the Staudingers viewed Hindu temples and had a close up view of village life, and also the island of Sri Lanka. The luncheon begins at 12 noon, cost $15 per person, and requires advance reservations. Call The Center at (708) 361-3650.

Village View

We serve our community with good news!

B-MAC EDITION

Volume 6 | Number 8 | April 17, 2012

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Alsip Jewel Osco deemed unsafe

by Jan Glaz

On April 2nd, at the Village of Alsip Board of Trustees Meeting, Alsip resident Raymond Pettavino accused the Jewel Food Store, located at 12001 S. Pulaski, as being on unsafe due to the store's placement of a temporary tent for their Garden Center. The permit for the tent was approved by the Board of Trustees at a previous meeting for a time period of March 15th through June 30, 2012. Mr. Pettavino informed the city council that on busy shopping day's vehicles drive the wrong way and make left turns where it's posted right turn only. He stated that there is too much activity, people and plants causing poor visibility. Pettavino feared children could easily be hit by a car.

Mayor Kitching and members of the board examined a sketch of the area supplied by Mr. Pettavino. Trustee Shapiro commented that he had interviewed a Jewel Manager and then drove around the garden area several times. The Jewel Manager told Shapiro that the present tent placement renders more visibility and is a safeguard against crime for employees and patrons, especially in the evenings.

Trustee Daddona brought forward two requests concerning police business. An Ordinance designating South Kolin Avenue between 127th Street and 128th Place as a One-Way Street and a request to purchase a trailer to house, store and transport crime prevention related materials at a cost not to exceed $5,000.00. Both requests met with approval.

Noteworthy Hiring: Trustee McGreal's request to hire Janet Simmonds to fill the vacant full time Clerical Assistant position; and Trustee Ryan's request to hire one Class II Operator and to post for this position for one week in-house and then to advertise outside if necessary, were both granted by the Board of Trustees before the meeting adjourned.

Crestwood Police Officer resigns

by Jan Glaz

Mayor Robert Stranczek and the Board of Trustees accepted the resignation of police officer Jason Hoselton at the Village of Crestwood Board of Trustee Meeting held on April 5th. Mayor Stranczek read the resignation letter officer Hoselton submitted to the Chief of Police, Theresa Neubauer. In the letter Hoselton expressed his great regret at submitting his resignation and commented that it had been a pleasure and honor to work as a police officer for the village of Crestwood. Hoselton noted that he had forged great friendships with many fellow officers and was sincerely grateful for the opportunities that he had been given. But now, he felt that it was in his best interest to accept the position that the Village of Midlothian offered him. "Jason was an excellent officer for us, we wish him the best of luck," said the Mayor.

Web Site Improvement: Consideration of a Services Agreement between the Village of Crestwood and Fanning Communications for Web Site Design, Hosting and Commercial services met with approval.

Fanning Communications are known as marketing futurists, they have pride in their innovative thinkers, professional integrity and knowledge.

Other motions that carried: An ordinance approving an agreement by and between Speer Financial, Inc. and the Village of Crestwood for furnishing bond and consulting services; a special use ordinance to permit storage of towed vehicles inside the building located at 14004-14006 S. Kildare Avenue.

There will be no parking of cars outside the premises.

One Promotion and a Bevy of Hiring:

At the close of the Village Meeting a batch of considerations were brought before the city council and all were approved.

The promotion of Firefighter Daniel Matys to Engineer with the Crestwood Fire Department; authorization for the Fire and Police Commission to add one (1) full-time patrolman from the eligibility list dated January 30, 2012; appointment of Michael Alexander to the position of part-time Detective at an hourly rate of $13.25 per hour and Michael Alexander to the position of full-time Parks Patrol Officer; appointment of Dorothy M. Koehler, part-time Crossing Guard at an hourly rate of $11.00 per hour

Chamber events for Blue Island

Mega-Business After Hours

Join members from Alsip, Blue Island, Midlothian and Oak Forest-Crestwood Area chambers for a great night of networking and fun!

Have a 30-second commercial about you and your company ready. Includes appetizers, pizza and pop, cash bar, 50/50 raffle and door prizes.

Call 708-388-1000 to reserve.When: Wednesday, April 25, 5:30-7:30 p.m., $7/$12 Where: Sullivans Irish Pub & Eatery, 4660 W. 147th St.,

Midlothian Southwest Symphony Fundraiser

There is a Dinner and Silent Auction Fundraiser benefiting the Southwest Symphony Orchestra that includes everything from gift items, to art, to a gourmet dinner for six at the Historic Heimbach House in Blue Island. Call 708-802-0686 to reserve tickets.When: Sunday, April 15, 3 - 7 p.m.Where: Aviana Banquets, 11142 Southwest Highway, Palos Hills Items of interest

Day of Blue Island History

The Blue Island Historical Society invites you to document your life in Blue Island, during Preservation Week 2012, April 22 through 28. Submit digital files or printed photos and documents, where they will have a permanent home in the our archives. Where: Submit materials to the Blue Island Historical Society/Albee House, 13018 Maple Ave, Blue Island, IL 60406

Blue Island student inspired by upcoming People to People World Leadership Forum

Zoe Stefani Schultz, a student at Paul Revere Intermediate, will travel to Washington D.C. to participate in a People to People World Leadership Forum. Zoe, along with fellow students from around the world, will take part in activities and discussions to understand U.S. government, U.S. history and current events. The students will remember past events and give ideas on how to build the future as well as participate in a meaningful service project to protect and preserve our national treasures.

Throughout the course of the program in Washington D.C., Zoe will learn about leadership and how iconic leaders throughout history have handled world events. Various hands-on activities, relevant professional speakers, small-group workshops, and visits to significant memorials, museums, and monuments will provide Zoe with insights on the importance and essential need for informed and inspired world leaders.

"I am most excited about going to the National Monuments, Memorials and Museums. I want to participate in a World Leadership Forum to learn how the past events have had an effect on our current times. I have prepared for the program by reading about our past history," says Zoe.

The People to People World Leadership Forum offers students a unique blend of specialized educational, leadership, and cultural exposure through a variety of p: grams, as well as an itinerary filled with the highlights of the hosting community.

While in Washington D.C., Zoe will have the opportunity to create lifelong memories and form lasting friendships with other Leadership Ambassadors from around the world.

Participants in People to People World Leadership Forums often experience life changing shifts in their attitudes toward personal responsibility, global leadership, and cultural diversity, returning home with enhanced leadership skills and self-confidence.

Citizen alert in Hickory Hills

by Jan Glaz

Police Chief Alan T. Vodicka presented a citizen's alert at the Hickory Hills City Council meeting, April 12th. His report included a summary of residential burglaries. The most recent occurrences: April 07, 9200 block of 84th Ct. (house); April 08, 8900 block of 85th Ave. (House); April 09, 8500 block of West 95th Street (Apartment) and (2) burglaries April 11th, both on the 9000 block of 85th Ave. The entry points ranged from an unlocked rear sliding glass door, a basement bedroom window, a small basement window, a small rear dining room window, and an undetermined - no sign of forced entry.

An Xbox, USC, assorted jewelry, BB gun, Flat screen T.V., assorted games, cell phones, sound bar, IMAC computer and an I Pad were among the stolen items. The hours of entry varied anywhere from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in each instance of burglary a neighborhood canvass was conducted from the scene. Detectives have developed and continue to investigate leads. Informational fliers are being distributed to homes in the general vicinity informing residents to immediately notify police if they observe anything out of the ordinary. A reverse 9-1-1 message will also be distributed over the next few days. "The residents obviously are the eyes and ears of the police department. If we work together we can be much more effective than working apart," said Chief Vodicka. Residents are encouraged to contact the police department if they would like an officer to conduct a security assessment of their home. The contact number for the police department is 708-598-4900 ext.1253.

In addition to scheduled recycling events held in Hickory Hills, a representative from Land of Lakes E-Waste recycling presented a proposal to set up a permanent no-cost E-waste recycling container at a site agreed upon by the Village of Hickory Hills. Questions were brought forth from Mayor Howley and the alderman as to the process and the containcr. It was explained that the container is a shipping container with 5 big cardboard bóxes inside called 'Gaylords' and when the boxes are filled they're removed and replaced by empty ones. It would be up to the city council to decide the location, and the days, and the hours the container would be open since it requires someone to open and close the padlock so residents can cnter. It was disclosed that the downside is residents ignore the rules of operation and they stop by after hours to drop their recyclables outside the container. Although Mayor Howley voiced concern that public work employees would have to load any items left outside into the container, he informed the representative that Alderman DeRose would work with Land of Lakes to develop a plan with options for a permanent container.

Electric Headache: Mayor Howley made an announcement concerning Electrical Aggregation before the meeting adjourned stating that the village has not made a decision whether to lock themselves into a contract with an electric broker; electrical aggregation will start sometime in June of 2013. Attorney Cainkar reminded the city council that when making a contract choice for a particular broker to be aware that there are big credit losses in this business. The village doesn't want to be lumped in with municipalities that may have an overabundance of people who owe money on their bills since that would affect the price point a broker would obtain from a supplier

Holdup: Before the meeting adjourned Mayor Terrence Stephens announced a holdup on approval of a Redevelopment Agreement and Final Site Plan with Brigham Construction to erect a storage unit facility, a building that would be designed to attract customers, at 147th and Lawndale; property that has been vacant for 20 years. "It's going to be a nice addition, so we're looking forward to this," said Mayor Stephens. He also said he believed the only holdup was a Commonwealth Edison holdup but Village attorney Daniel McGrath commented that there were a couple of other issues and mentioned one regarding parking. A meeting was scheduled for the following day, April 12th, between the village and Brigham Construction attorney's, to iron out the details

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We have found that through the years of publishing the readers are interested in general information and also local happenings within their community. Therefore because we are fully electronic, we will not be accepting faxed or mailed news releases.

Midlothian upgrades Police Department

by Jan Glaz

The cost of multiple upgrades related to the Police Department met with undisputed approval on April 11th at the Village of Midlothian City Council meeting: a 4-ton HVAC unit for Police Department from Sub Zero at a cost of $8,050: Respiratory Protection Program – approval of the proposal from 3M Company to purchase respirators and conduct medical screening for police officers in the total amount of $2,939.80:

Two Air Purifying Respirators at $309.95 each, plus carrier at $34.95 for a total of $689.80: Thirty filters, a total of $1,410.00: Thirty officers completing medical screening at $28.00 each for a total of $840.00: an approval from the State of Illinois to purchase a Video Camera for a police squad car in the amount of $4,782.00.

The final expense in the amount of $1,568.00 referred to the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners, Terry Mulcahy and Wayne Winterberg, to attend a spring 2012 Seminar in Peoria on April 27th and 28th.

Of Interest: The city council approved the Tiffany Plaza weekly cruise night sponsored by Scott's Garage in Alsip on Wednesdays from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Scott's Garage is located at 12629 Knoll Drive, Alsip Il. (708) 396-2082.

Oak Forest Park District announces their programs

The Oak Forest Park District, 15601 Central Ave. is hosting its Annual Family Kite Fly on Saturday, April 28th from 10:00am to 2:00pm at Jesk Park, 155th and Ridgeland Ave. This event is free. Free build a kite kits also available. Pack a family picnic or purchase concessions. For further information, please call Kirstin at (708) 687-7270, Ext. 119.

The Oak Forest Park District will host a dance recital, That'sEntertainment at Andrew High School, 9001 171st Street, Tinley Park. Doors open at 5:30pm and show begins at 6:00pm. All ages are welcome. Tickets are $6.00 and $8.00. Call Gina Byrnes at 708-687-7270, x 119 for more information or tickets.

The Oak Forest Park District is having their Fun Time Preschool Registration for the school year 2012-2013 on Friday, April 20th. Residents can sign up from 5:00pm to 7:00pm and Non-residents can sign up from 6:00pm to 7:00pm. Children ages 3 (by Sept 1st) thru 5 years old are eligible. Registration packets are available now. For further information, please call SueAnn Beardsley at (708) 687-7270, Ext. 160.

The Oak Forest Park District ,15601 Central Ave. is offering ZUMBA for women ages 15yrs and older. Classes are Wednesdays, June 13th thru August 8th 7:00pm to 8:00pm, or 8:00pm to 9:00pm, Tuesdays, June 12th thru July 31st 8:30am to 9:30am or Thursdays, June 14th thru August 2nd 10:30am to 11:30am. Fee: $32R/$42NR. For more info call: Gina Byrnes at (708) 687-7270, Ext. 119.

Oak Forest Park District, 15601 Central Ave. Our dance program wants to host your child's next birthday party! Each party will include a party host, decorated party room, goodie bags, plastic ware, napkins, plates, room set-up and clean-up. Parties are scheduled for Saturdays or Sundays for 90 minutes in our Dance Studio. You provide cake, candles and drinks. Ages 3 and up. 6-10 participants is $125.00 (each add'l up to 15 is $10 each). For more info call Gina Byrnes at 708-687-7270 x119 to schedule your event today. Must be scheduled three weeks in advance.

Smith Village announces a fashion show on April 24

Fashions, food, fun on the menu Tuesday, April 24, at Smith VillagePublic invited to attend by donating $10 to Emilie's Fund,

Spring and summer styles from Coldwater Creek are on the menu for a fashion show and luncheon at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, April 24, at Smith Village, a continuing care retirement community (CCRC) at 2320 West 113th Place in Chicago's Beverly neighborhood. Smith residents will model the clothing as they do each year at this annual spring event. Coldwater Creek apparel, jewelry, fashion and home accessories are designed for women 35 years of age and older and reflect an elegant yet relaxed lifestyle. The merchandise is available through retail stores, a web site and catalogs.

The public is invited to attend by making a $10 donation to Emilie's Fund, which supports Smith residents who have outlived their means. Reservations for this event must be made in advance. Please call 773-474-7303.

About Smith Village Smith Village offers resort-style retirement living with apartments and appealing common areas for residents at all levels of care. Sponsored by Smith Senior Living, a not-for-profit organization serving older adults since 1924, Smith Village provides spacious residences and engaging programs for independent living, as well as assisted living, memory support and skilled nursing care. Smith Village also provides short-term rehabilitation services for residents and others requiring assistance after surgery or a medical incident. For more information about Smith Village, call 773-474-7300.

Worth will go after scofflaw offenders

by Matt Mayer

In a conversation with Village Clerk Bonnie Price regarding the April 3 Worth Board of Trustees meeting, officials approved a contract with Municipal Collections of America, Inc (MCOAI) of Lansing, IL for the collection of monies from residents who haven't purchased vehicle stickers. "Some offenders have never purchased stickers and others haven't purchased stickers for years," said Price.

Officials at a previous meeting approved a one-year contract that was outlined by Roger Wood of Municipal Collections of America for the collection from scofflaw offenders, which is defined by Merriam-Webster as contemptuous law violators. MCOAI helps municipalities design and implement a full service collection process to recover from those who elect not to pay. MCOAI provides collection services for over 70 municipalities in the Chicago area according to their company website.

The agreement, which can be extended for two years, states that the village will receive fifty percent of each paid amount collected. An average citation can cost up to $240, said Wood. The number of outstanding fines was reduced from five to three, to make it more affordable for people to pay. .

Five citations can amount to $1,250, which is an amount most people can't handle. However most people can handle $750 on a payment plan. For violators with 3 tickets that have not been paid, the village will also take action by either towing their vehicle or immobilizing it by means of the "Denver Boot".

2012 Walk, Run or Roll Race

Join the South West Special Recreation Association (SWSRA) on Sunday, May 6th, 2012, for the fun and exciting 4th Annual Walk, Run or Roll 1/2 Mile Race. This race is specifically designed so that individuals with special needs, age 8 and older, can participate in a community event that is held in conjunction with the First Midwest Bank Southwest Half Marathon. The Walk, Run or Roll Race will begin at 7:30 a.m. (participants must be checked in by 7:00 a.m.), at the Palos Heights City Hall, just west of Route 83 and 76th Avenue.

Bring home a bronze, silver or gold medal in one of the following five categories: Overall Race, Ambulatory, Assisted Devices, Non-Motorized Wheelchair, or Motorized Wheelchair. Register today! The registration fees are $7 per athlete through January 1st, $10 through March 1st, $15 through April 1st, and $17 through May 1st. Participants who are registered by the April 1st deadline are guaranteed a participation medal and T-shirt. Register a group of four and get a 5th person for free!

Completed registrations, medical forms and waivers must be submitted to the SWSRA office in order to compete in the event. Forms may be picked up at the SWSRA office, 12521 S. Kostner Ave. in Alsip, or may be downloaded at www.swsra.com. Participants may use assisted mobility devices such as a walker, cane or manual/motorized wheelchair. A "buddy" is also allowed to assist an athlete for free and may purchase a "buddy" t-shirt for $5.00.

For more information, please contact the SWSRA office at 708-389-9423 or visit www.swsra.com. South West Special Recreation Association (SWSRA)is a special recreation cooperative comprised of the following: Alsip Park District, Blue Island Park District, Justice Park District, Village of Merrionette Park, Midlothian Park District, Palos Heights Recreation Department, Posen Park District, Summit Park District and Worth Park District. SWSRA was formed in 1981 to provide year-round quality recreation programs and services for individuals with disa bilities or special needs. SWSRA programs are designed to increase independence and enhance the quality of life for each individual. SWSRA is now in its 30th year of providing recreation for special populations in the south suburban area.

A wide variety of programs are available for individuals from early childhood through adulthood. The programs are designed to meet the individual recreation needs of any person who is in special education classes, participates in a sheltered workshop, is referred to SWSRA from a local hospital or rehabilitation center, or whose special needs restrict or prohibit their participation in traditional park district or recreation department programs. This would include individuals who have varying degrees of physical or mental disabilities, learning disabilities, behavior disorders, attention deficit disorders, and hearing or visual

St. Xavier University offers programs and activities

SXU Jazz Ensemble Spring Concert, 7:30 p.m., Fri., April 20, McGuire Hall The SXU Jazz Ensemble will perform music by Dave Brubeck, Miles Davis, Duke Ellington, George Gershwin, W.C. Handy, Thelonious Monk, Oliver Nelson, Jimmy Van Heusen, and Kurt Weill.

· University Orchestra presents "Finale: Beethoven's First," 7:30 p.m., Wed., April 25, Rehearsal/Performance Space - The University Orchestra will end its 2012 season with the composer who concluded the classical period and propelled symphonic music to new heights, Ludwig van Beethoven.

· Wind Ensemble and special guests the Kelly High School Band present "Cartoon! Classical Pops," 7:30 p.m., Thurs., April 26, Rehearsal/Performance Space - The SXU Wind Ensemble will end its season by showcasing the lighter side of band music, ranging from a quirky Strauss polka, jewels from the great American musical composer Leonard Bernstein, and Paul Hart's "Cartoon."

· SXU Opera Workshop presents Mozart's "The Magic Flute", 7:30 p.m. on Fri., April 27 and Sat., April 28, McGuire Hall - This well-known opera was first produced in Vienna as a spectacular fairy tale. It will be performed in English with spoken dialogue, allowing for a wonderfully burlesque comedy with a bit of conflict between good and evil. All performances will run approximately two hours and fifteen minutes with one intermission. General admission tickets are $8, and $5 for visiting students and senior citizens with ID.

There is ample free parking on campus. In addition to the public performances, there will be a special performance for senior citizens and students at 3 p.m. on Thurs., April 26 for a reduced price of $3. Teachers interested in bringing a group of students should contact the Music Department at (773) 298-3421

Palos Park Public Library announces their programs

Families are invited to enjoy a movie at the Palos Park Public Library on Saturday, May 5th at 11 am. The movie features Sesame Street friends coming to the aid of some of their old buddies when a greedy oil tycoon wants to drill under the Muppet Theater for oil.

The muppets organize one last show and save the Muppet Theater. Runtime is 98 mins. Light refreshments will be served.

The library is located at 12330 Forest Glen Blvd. Palos Park, IL. Register for this event by calling the library at 708-448-1530.

Bingo

Join us to play After School Bingo at the Palos Park Public Library on Thursday,

April 26th at 4:30 pm. Children five and up are invited to play an hour of bingo and win fun prizes. The library is located at 12330 Forest Glen Blvd., Palos Park,

IL. No registration is required. For more information call the library at (708) 448-1530.

Creale a Hat

Children ages 5 and up are invited to create a special floral straw hat decoration for Mom as a gift for her special day.

This craft time will be held on Tuesday, May 8th at 4:30 pm., at the Palos Park Public Library. The library is located at 12330 Forest Glen Blvd. Palos Park, IL.

To register for this craft event stop by or contact the library at (708)448-1530.

The Legacy of Floyd Cramer, Featuring Jason Coleman

To Perform in Arlington Heights, Ill. on April 29, 2012

Live on Stage, Inc and the Northwest Suburban Community Concert Association Announce Jason Coleman Concluding Their 2011-2012 Concert Season

Jason Coleman, grandson of the legendary Nashville pianist Floyd Cramer, continues his family's tradition in this nostalgic and entertaining tribute at the Forest View Educational Center Auditorium in Arlington Heights, IL on Sunday, April 29, 2012 at 3:00pm. Tickets for this performance are $25. For more information visit the Northwest Suburban Community Concert Association website at www.nscommunityconcerts.org.

In addition to touring the "Legacy" show, Jason Coleman is an active recording musician and church music associate in Nashville, TN. He debuted on the Grand Ole Opry at age 17. His natural inclination to the piano was clear by the age of five. In addition to his formal training, Jason displayed an uncanny reflection of his grandfather's stylings. Most famously he performed piano duets with Floyd on "Music City Tonight" hosted by Lorraine Crook and Crystal Gayle at the age of nine, and on "Nashville Now" hosted by Ralph Emery at four years of age. Most notably for Jason, however, was his performance at the induction of his granddad into the Country Music Hall of Fame with the Opry House Band.

The Northwest Suburban Community Concert Association (formerly Arlington Heights Community Concert Association) has a 64-year history of bringing affordable, high caliber entertainment to the Northwest suburbs. This all-volunteer nonprofit organization sponsors four concerts each year featuring national and international performers. These concerts are performed at the Forest View Educational Center auditorium in partnership with District 214 Community Education.

Live On Stage, Inc. provides acclaimed, affordable entertainment attractions and support services to an American community of concert presenters. For more information, visit www.LiveOnStage.biz.

Want to see more community news, visit our website! www.villageviews.weebly.com

Rash of Senior Citizen Car Crashes Has Families Taking the Keys Away

How local families put the brakes on elderly driving

A rash of recent, fatal car crashes with senior citizens driving has brought attention to a graying population packing our roadways. By 2030, more than 70 million Americans will be 65 or older and at least 90 percent of them will be licensed to drive. That's why Senior Helpers, one of the largest in-home senior care companies with offices in your city, wants to raise awareness during April's National Distracted Driving Awareness Month – by giving families a Senior Helpers Safe Driving Checklist.

"When elders can no longer drive, they may start to feel trapped and out of control of their lives," says Peter Ross, CEO and co-founder of Senior Helpers. "We encourage families to monitor their elderly loved ones with our Senior Helpers Safe Driving Checklist. If they notice problems, they can hire a caregiver to drive their loved one. The caregiver is not only the driver but also an extra set of eyes and ears at doctor's appointments or grocery store visits. Plus, caregivers are great companions who keep seniors social and active."

ONE FAMILY'S SOLUTION – HIRE A CAREGIVER

Annette of Huntsville, Alabama hired a caregiver after her 78-year-old mother tried to drive herself to the doctor and got lost in the parking lot.

"My mother is a very independent woman but she's not as mentally sharp as she used to be. It took her getting lost for me to realize that we needed to hire someone to help drive her around," says Annette. "It's hard for me to take off work to take her to doctor's appointments but I didn't feel comfortable telling her she couldn't drive anymore. Instead, I hired a caregiver to drive her around, five days a week, so she could still feel socially independent. Not only do I have a peace of mind, but my mother really enjoys their company."

If your elderly loved one insists on driving follow this: The Senior Helpers Driving Checklist

·Check medications - They can impair driving by making seniors drowsier or more distracted than usual. Recent studies show the average person over the age of 65 takes between two and seven medications a day! Seniors should avoid driving for a few days once they begin a new medication, so they know how the drug affects them. Be sure they consult their physician and pharmacist before staring a new medication, to see if it will affect their ability to drive.

·Have eyes checked - Eyes change with age. Seniors' peripheral vision narrows, they are less sensitive to light and their eyes lose the ability to focus quickly. Research shows 85 percent of driving is visual and 15 percent is skill. A 60-year-old driver requires 10 times as much light to see as a 19-year-old

·Be aware of sleep issues - 37 million older Americans suffer from frequent sleep problems. The drowsier behind the wheel, the slower the reflexes

·Reflex and awareness - This can be especially risky if getting behind the wheel of a car. Statistics reveal that older drivers are more likely than younger ones to be involved in multi-vehicle crashes, particularly at intersections.

·Check vehicle for signs of damage when he/she is not with you – This can be a good indicator about their ability to drive.

"Driving tests can miss the onset of diseases like Alzheimer's that affect judgment, understanding and memory which can cause accidents on the road," says Ross. If it's time to take the keys away, adult children should reassure their elderly parents they can still see friends and be involved in activities even if they can't drive. If you hire a caregiver as a driver, it can ease some of the tension when you take the keys away from Mom or Dad."

Consider the problem with the recent wave of car crashes just last month, involving elderly drivers:

New Bedford, MA (March) - An 89-year-old man, who hadn't renewed his license since 1987, is charged in connection with hitting and killing a 68-year-old woman who was crossing a downtown street.

Los Angeles, CA (March) - An 81-year-old woman accidentally hits the gas pedal, slamming into a car, killing the driver and a pedestrian.

Toledo, OH (March) - A 69-year-old woman kills three college students and herself, and seriously injures two others, after driving the wrong way on an interstate.

Northern California (March) - An 85 year old Redding man crashes and dies when his car hits a tree.

Sources: Smart Motorist, American Automobile Association (AAA), National Safety Council, The Christian Post, CBS Boston, CBS Los Angeles

About Senior Helpers: Senior Helpers connects professional caregivers with seniors who wish to live at home as opposed to a nursing or assisted living facility. The company has nearly 300 franchises in 40 states and one Canadian province offering a wide range of personal and companion care services to assist seniors living independently with a strong focus on quality of life for the client and peace of mind for their families. Senior Helpers strives to be the leading companion and personal care provider that offers dependable, consistent and affordable home care.

For more information, www.seniorhelpers.com/

RecruitMilitary and U.S. Chamber of Commerce To Collaborate on 50 Veteran Hiring Events in 2012

RecruitMilitary and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce have announced that they will continue to collaborate on career fair hiring events for veterans and military spouses. They will work together on 50 events nationwide from April through December 2012.

RecruitMilitary and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce are pleased to announce that they will continue to collaborate on career fair hiring events for our nation's veterans and their spouses. RecruitMilitary produced 19 such events, called Hiring Our Heroes/ RecruitMilitary Veteran Opportunity Expos, from September 2011 through March 2012.

The continuation will cover 50 events to be held from April through December 2012. As an added feature for 2012, GE will conduct employment workshops and one-on-one career mentoring sessions at many of the events.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UvKkK5eSfEI

Hello, and welcome to Eartheasy's April Newsletter Breaking Ground

Are these Hidden Poisons Harming your Pets?

Pets are more vulnerable than people to exposure from toxins in and around the home. There are 8 common household chemical hazards you should be aware of, and pet-safe alternatives you can use to ensure the health of your pet. You can look them up on Village View website at www.villageviewls.weebly.com/

Pesticides Found to Cause Bee Colony Collapse

Researchers are finally close to identifying the cause of worldwide bee colony collapse, and it appears that the most commonly used pesticides are the culprit. Would you Expose your Family to Neurotoxins for a Greener Lawn?

The EPA is being sued for failing to respond to a 2008 petition to ban 2,4-D from lawn care products. There are safer alternatives for maintaining a healthy lawn...Shop Eartheasy: Eartheasy's online store offers products which help you conserve energy, save water, garden organically, and reduce toxins in the home and yard.

You can find this article on our website at: www.villageviewls.weebly.com/

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"Mowimy po Polska!"

Freeman Named Woman of the Year

Katie Freeman, an Edward Jones Financial Advisor in New Lenox, IL has been named Dunamis' Woman of the Year and will be honored at the AMI Kids "Time To Shine" Chicago Gala on Wednesday, April 25 at Palmer House, Chicago.

Katie Freeman has been an Edward Jones financial advisor in New Lenox, IL since 2006. She achieved the AAMS designation in 2008 and she was named Limited Partner in 2010. She currently serves as a Mentor and Field Trainer to new financial advisors at Edward Jones.

A graduate of Indiana State University, Freeman earned a degree in Business Management and Psychology with a minor in Accounting and Finance.

Freeman is a past President and member of the New Lenox Rotary Club, the New Lenox Chamber of Commeree, the Lincoln-Way Women's Business Networking Association, Business Networking International, created and established the Will County Business Networking Association and was a past member of the Bernie Mac Gala Committee. She created the first collaborative charity event with the Gridiron Greats Assistance Fund, NFLPA Chicago Chapter and Rotary International.. In addition to this, she created the first corporate networking event with Gridiron Greats Assistanee Fund and is currently creating a corporate partnership program for Gridiron Greats as well.

Freeman has received several awards such as the 2006 Presidents Academic Exeellenee Award at Indiana State University, 2007 Partner's Award, 2007 Regional Leaders Award, 2007 Circle Award, 2008 Century Award, 2008 Edward Jones Rookie of the year, 2008 Pacesetter Award, Rotarian of the Year 2008-2009, and the Jack Phelan award for 2008-2010.

Dunamis Woman, Inc. objective is to support the mission of charitable organizations serving and empowering others within various cultures and communities, so they can experience wholesome changes in their lives.

For more information, call (815) 485-2577.

May Programs for Children and Families at Acorn Public Library District

Below is a listing of programs offered by Acorn Public Library for children, teens and families. The library is located at 15624 Central Ave. Oak Forest, IL 60452. The library's phone number is 708-687-3700, and is also located at www.acornlibrary.org.

May 2012 Programs

Registration is required for all programs, unless otherwise noted, ending when full. If for any reason you cannot attend a program for which you are registered, please call the library to cancel, allowing a child on the waiting list to attend. Thank you!

Young Adult Book Discussion Group
Fri. May 4 at 3:30 PM
Grades 6 and Up
This month's selection is "Marcelo in the Real World" by Francisco X. Stork. Copies of the book are available at the Youth Services Desk.

Family Story Time
Sat. May 5 at 10:30 AM
Most appropriate for children up to Age 7
Join us for stories songs and a craft! Registration begins April 21.

After School Craft
Tues. May 8 at 4 PM
Ages 6 and Up
Come to the library to make a fun craft after school! Registration begins April 24, ending when full.

Bedtime Story Time
Wed. May 9 at 7 PM
7:00 PM
Up to Age 7
Wear your PJ's for a fun night of stories, songs and a craft!
Registration begins two weeks prior, ending when full.

Story Time Fun
Tues. May 15 at 6:30 PM
All Ages
Join us for stories and snacks! Register at the Youth Services Desk starting April 3, ending when full.

Teen Advisory Group
Thurs. May 17 at 7PM
Grades 6 and Up
Join a group of teens who are interested in volunteering and having fun!

LEGO Club
Sat. May 19 at 10:30 AM
Ages 6 and Up
Join our LEGO club! Each meeting will have a different theme to create. Registration begins May 5, ending when full.

Family Game Night
Tues. May 22 at 7 PM
All Ages
We'll be getting together for a night of family fun! Activities may include favorites like bingo, checkers and board games. Registration begins May 8, ending when full.

Touch a Truck Day

On April 21st from 10am to noon, the Palos Hills Community Resource and Recreation Department will be hosting a Touch a Truck Day. This event will be held at The Town Square Park (8455 W 103rd Street). Kids will have the opportunity to get up close to all there favorite big rigs. Each child will receive a plastic hard hat and make a craft project.

Also, on April 21st from 11:00am to noon, the Palos Hills Community Resource and Recreation Department will be hosting a Family Kite Flying Day. This event will be held at The Town Square Park (8455 W 103rd Street). Bring your own kite or purchase a "Color Me Kite" at the event.

Also, on April 21st from 9am to noon, the Palos Hills Community Resource and Recreation Department will be hosting a Kid's Garage Sale. If you would like to be a vendor there is a $5 charge, please call 708-430-4500 for more info. about becoming a vendor.

All of these events are free, but registration is suggested, to register please go to the Palos Hills Community Center. (8455 W 103rd Street) For more information please call 708-430-4500.

American Legion and Auxiliary Awards Night

The Evergreen Park American Legion and Auxiliary will hold its annual Awards Night on May 8, 2012 at 8:00 p.m. at the Post Hall, 9701 S. Kedzie in Evergreen Park. Awards will be given by the Post to scholastically outstanding Evergreen Park students and schools, and by the Auxiliary to Essay Contest winners. Winners of the Auxiliary's Americanism Essay Contest are: 1st place-Mark Seavers, 8th grade, St. John Fisher School, 2nd place-Molly Clifford, 8th grade, Queen of Martyrs School, and 3rd place-Shannon O'Malley, 7th grade, Most Holy Redeemer School. All families and school staff are invited to attend Awards Night. Cake and coffee will be served after the ceremony.

Oak Lawn Garden Club

The Oak Lawn Garden Club will present, Extend the Bounty of Summer Herbs in Your Garden, by Kathy Vitalo, owner of Herbally Yours on Thursday, April 26th, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. at Oak View Center, 4625 W. 110th Street, Oak Lawn, IL

Kathy is an Urban Agriculturist who grows herbs and infuses the flavor into aged vinegars.

She has promised to bring wonderful recipe ideas using the herbs we enjoy growing.

Oak Lawn Garden Contest is open to all residents of Oak Lawn and is held during the month of May.

Perennial Plant Sale, Saturday, May 19th, at the Gazebo in Centennial Park, 94th and Nashville Annual Garden Walk,Sunday, June 24th, for more information go to www.oaklawngardenclub.org

Palos Township Health Service

Palos Township Health Service will host a free hearing screening by Dr. Rompala from Sertoma on Tuesday, April 24, 2012.

The event will take place from10 AM until 12 noon at the Health Service office, 10802 South Roberts Road, Palos Hills.

Please call the Health Service office at 708-598-2441 to schedule an appointment.

Lawyer Offers Tips for Safeguarding Your Assets

In Florida, a man serving 12 years in prison for DUI manslaughter is suing his victims' survivors for his pain, suffering, medical bills and "loss of capacity for enjoying life."

In Illinois last year, siblings aged 20 and 23 sought more than $50,000 in damages from their mom for "bad mothering," including setting a curfew for her then-teenage daughter, "haggling" over clothing prices, and failing to send college care packages.

Lawsuits like these are, unfortunately, more the rule than the exception, says Hillel L. Presser, a lawyer specializing in domestic and international asset protection planning and author of Financial Self-Defense (www.assetprotectionattorneys.com).

"Litigation is America's fastest growing business, and why not? Plaintiffs have everything to gain and nothing but a few hours' time to lose," Presser says. "Even if a case seems utterly ridiculous, like the guy in prison suing his victims' family, defendants are encouraged to settle just to avoid potentially astronomical legal fees."

So where does a person begin? You'll likely need the expertise of an asset protection planner, Presser says, but here are some steps you can take on your own.

• Take stock of your wealth. Inventory your assets – you probably own more than you think. Besides savings and retirement accounts, consider any money owed to you, anticipated inheritances and future assets. Property includes homes, vehicles, jewelry, and land. Don't forget to consider intangible assets, those non-physical but valuable brands, trademarks, patents and intellectual property. Visit www.assetprotectionattorneys.com for an inventory worksheet.

• Put only assets that are exempt from seizure in your name. Federal and state laws protect some personal assets from lawsuits and creditors. Those assets typically include your primary residence; personal items such as furniture and clothing; pensions and retirement funds; and life insurance. State exemption laws vary; federal laws govern exemptions in bankruptcy.

• Protectively title non-exempt assets. Putting the title to valuable assets in the names of corporations, limited partnerships, domestic trusts and other entities offers some protection. You still get to use and enjoy the asset but legal ownership is with an entity that's not subject to your personal creditors' claims. Which entities best shield which assets depends on the asset, your state laws, taxation and your estate plan, to name a few considerations. You can also combine protective entities, for instance, giving ownership of your limited liability company to a limited partnership. It's best to get professional advice when choosing the entity that will best protect an asset.

Whether you're worth millions or a few hundred thousand, it's important to not get caught with your assets showing, Presser says. The more you have exposed, the more enticing a target you become. And the less you have, the more catastrophic the outcome can be.

"If the average person with $200,000 is sued for $1 million, he's wiped out," Presser says. "It's not so horrific for the person with $25 million who gets sued for $5 million.

Pictured left to right are Father Perez Knights of Columbus Council #1444 Grand Knight Jack Ullrich and the five of the council's six newest members, William Donnelly, St. Christina Parish; Michael Groth and Arnold Franker, St. Terrence Parish; Chris Ullrich, St. Christina Parish, Maxwell Brenner, St. Barnabas Parish, and Father Perez Council Worthy Financial Secretary Ron Hrad. Patrick Johnson of St. Christina Parish

Knights of Columbus inducts male Catholics

Father Perez Knights of Columbus Council #1444 hosted a Major Degree on Palm Sunday in the St. Christina School Hall. This is the ceremony that inducts practicing male Catholics, 18 years and older into the Knights of Columbus. The event is called a Major Degree because three of the four Knights of Columbus degrees are conferred.

Twenty-one men from several nearby councils obtained their membership in the Knights of Columbus. Among them were six men who joined Father Perez Council. They were Maxwell Brenner of St. Barnabas Parish in the Chicago neighborhood of Beverly, William Donnelly, Patrick Johnson and Chris Ullrich of St. Christina Parish in the Chicago neighborhood of Mount Greenwood and Arnold Franker and Michael Groth of St. Terrance Parish in Alsip. Each received all three degrees which are based on the core principles of charity, unity, fratemity and patriotism.

Other councils were well represented. Six inductees hailed from Our Lady of Fatima Council #3582, Oak Lawn; five from Mayslake Council #4053, Hinsdale; 2 from Cardinal Mundelein Council #3024; Clearing neighborhood of Chicago; and one each from Brother William Kerkel Council #5866, Midlothian; Joseph Cardinal Bernadin Council #324; Evergreen Park and Blue Island Council #1366, Blue Siland.

According to Father Perez Council Grand Knight Jack Ulrich, "Father Perez Council is pleased to host this major degree annually. We appreciate the co-operation of St. Christina and are thrilled that six other councils participated in the event. We are doubly proud that six men from local parishes have joined Perez. They are embraced by every member of the council."

The Knights of Columbus is an organi-zation for Catholic men that fills the hearts and minds of its members with the joy of giving to others and the feeling that comes with making a difference.

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Fri-Sat: 12-Midnight
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Monthly Special Events! Like us on facebook

Louis S. Viverito, Supervisor of Stickney Township Announces AARP Driver Safety Class

The AARP Driver Safety Program is the nation's first and largest refresher course for drivers age 50 and older. The program has helped millions of drivers protect their safety on today's roads. The training is designed to help you:

·Tune up your driving skills and update your knowledge of the rules of the road.

·Learn about normal, age-related physical changes and how to adjust your driving to allow for these changes.

·Reduce your traffic violations, crashes, and chances for injuries.

·Drive more safely.

·Get an insurance discount.

The class will be held on Thursday, April 19th and Friday, April 20th from 12:00 to 4:00p.m. at the Louis S. Viverito Senior Center located at 7745 S. Leamington Ave. in Burbank.

Registration for the class is required and the course fee is $12 for AARP members and $14 for non-members payable that day to the instructor.

Please call Stickney Township Office on Aging at (708) 636-8850 to register.

Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce to host Annual Health & Wellness Fair

The Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce will sponsor a Health & Wellness Fair on Thursday, April 19. The event will be held at the Oak Lawn Senior Center, 5330 W. 95th Street . The Fair will run from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. The fair is open to any to the public and is free.

During the Health & Wellness Fair, Chamber businesses will showcase a variety of Products and services such as free blood pressure screenings, spinal screenings, BMI, Product samples, and Pneumonia & Tetanus Shots (small fee), Advocate Christ Medical Center, ATI Physical Therapy, Bfit, Cusack Insurance, Jewel / Osco, Marshall Dental, Marquette Bank, Oak Lawn Foot and Ankle, Walgreens, Working Class Uniforms are just some of the many vendors.

For more informa-tion, please contact the Chamber office at (708) 424-8300, or office@oaklawnchamber.com

Founded in 1946, the Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce consists of nearly 300 members. The Chamber of Commerce works to represent and advance the Oak Lawn business community, striving with constant integrity, faimess and cooperation to promote and improve the economic atmosphere, business climate and image of Oak Lawn .

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Please join us in celebrating 25 years of service on Sunday, June 3, 2012
2413 Canal Street, Blue Island, IL 60406
Open House: 4:00pm - 5:30pm
Dinner next door at Maple Tree Inn: 5:30pm
Open Speaker Meeting: 7:00pm
Dinner Ticket Donation: $50 must be purchased in advance no later than May 21, 2012
Raffle Tickets: $50 (1st Prize: $3,000, 2nd Prize: $1,500, 3rd Prize: $750)
(To purchase dinner or raffle tickets, please call 708-385-3229)
http://guildhaus.org/25th

There is scheduled walking tour at the Chicago Portage National Historic Site Tour

Friends of the Chicago Portage would like to announce a free public tour of the Chicago Portage National Historic Site on Saturday May 5th at 10:00 A.M. This tour will be lead by vetcran tour guide Gary Mechanic who will explore the "Birth Story of Chicago" from the geological beginnings of the Portage to how it is still functioning in Chicago today.

One of only two national historic sites in Illinois, the Chicago Portage National Historic site is the only place where you can stand on the same ground walked by all the early explorers, early settlers, and creators of Chicago. The Tour is approximately ½ mile in length on a gravel path through the woods and will take about 2 hours. Wear long pants and walking shoes or boots. The Tour will run rain or shine.The late Tribune columnist John Husar, after touring the site called it "Our sacred ground". It is certainly Chicago's "Plymouth Rock".All tours are free and open to the public.Location: The Chicago Portage National Historic site is at 4800 S. Harlem which is on the west side of Harlem Avenue (7200 W) just 2 blocks north of the Stevenson Expressway (I-55). Meet at the monumental statue of Marquette and Joliet and their Native American guide at 10:00 am. Sponsored by the Friends of the Chicago Portage. Contact: Gary Mechanic at 773-590-0710 www.chicagoportage.org.

A concert for all ages

Trinity's Praise Band is putting on a concert! Friday, April 20th at 7:00pm 9701 S Brandt Ave Oak Lawn IL 708/422-0193.

After the concert there will be refreshments in The Gathering Place. We will be performing songs from artists like Casting Crowns, Chris Tomlin, Benton Brown, Nicole Nordeman & more! A concert for all ages! Everyone is Welcome. Bring a friend. Psalm 66:4 "Everything on earth will worship you; they will sing your praises, shouting your name in glorious songs."

Alsip Merrionette Park Public Library announces their schedule

Adult Services Programs for April, 2012 Temporary Location Alsip-Merrionette Park Public Library 12838 S. Cicero Avenue To register, call the Adult Services Dept. at 708/371-5666 ext. 109 www.alsiplibrary.info

Free Yourself of Clutter and Make Money! Wednesday, April 25 at 7:00 P.M. Colleen Klimczak, Certified Professional Organizer and founder of Peace of Mind in Evergreen Park, will show you how to get organized and start clearing the clutter in your home. She will share how to profit from eliminating your clutter by organizing a garage sale. Limited to 25 registered patrons.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP The Alsip-Merrionette Park Public Library's Adult Book Discussion Group meets on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. To register, please contact the Adult Services Department. Feb. 2— The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot Mar. 1— The Uncoupling by Meg Wolitzer Apr. 5— Blood, Bones & Butter by Gabrielle Hamilton May 3— Major Pettigrew's Last Stand by Helen Simonson

COMPUTER CLASSES

We will be offering two adult computer classes. John Hojek will be your instructor. Registration must be in-person at the Reference Desk with a valid AMPL library card or ID. There will be a $10 non-refundable registration fee for each class for residents of the Alsip-Merrionette Park Library District. The nonrefundable fee for nonresidents is $25.

If the class does not meet the minimum requirement of 8 students, your fee will be reimbursed.

Beginning Internet

Friday, April 20 10 A.M. — 2 P.M. Beginning Email Friday, May 04 10 A.M. — 2 P.M. Alsip-Merrionette Park Public Library District residents will have priority and nonresidents will be placed on a waiting list. If you can't attend the class for any reason, we ask that you cancel 72 hours in advance to allow another patron to attend the class. If you fail to do so, or don't show up the day of the class, you will be ineligible for any other computer class. If you have questions, please call the Reference Desk at 708/371-5666 ext. 109.

Southtown Dahlia Club Dazzling Dahlias sale

This is an opportunity to purchase quality dahlia plants and tubers at reasonable prices.

We will be featuring bedding plants and beautiful hanging baskets as well. Refreshments will be served.

DATE: SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 2012
TIME: FROM 1:00 PM TO 4:00 PM
PLACE: CRESTWOOD CIVIC CENTER
14205 S. Kostner Ave.
Crestwood, IL
For further info contact Corny Morgan at 708-361-1123

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Family Days Season Opener!
Saturday, April 28, 2012
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More Family Days: May 12, May 26, June 23
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Moraine Valley to host a teen sports night

Teens looking for a sporty night of free fun are invited to participate in a Sports Extravaganza on Friday, April 20, from 7 to 9 p.m. in Moraine Valley Community College's gym, 9000 W. College Pkwy in Palos Hills. Moraine Valley students pursuing degrees in Recreation Management are planning the affair.

Throughout the semester they have been learning how to plan and implement an event for teens, including marketing, receiving donations, planning appropriate activities, and recruiting volunteers, said Donna McCauley, Recreation Management and Recreation Therapy coordinator. Park districts and recreation departments in Worth, Palos Heights, Tinley Park, Alsip, and Oak Lawn have helped students prepare.

Last year was the first time her class coordinated an event for teenagers. This event is open to all teens from 13 to 15 years old. There will be activities throughout the night, including soccer, basketball, baseball, bags, and fricket (disc cricket). Prizes will be awarded. To register, please call McCauley at (708) 974-0185 or Meghan Fenton at (708) 342-4213.

The Joffrey Ballet caps a season of artistic triumphs with Spring Desire

The Joffrey Ballet's season concludes with a spring mixed repertory program of three sensual, neo-classical works in "Spring Desire," presented in ten performances only at the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, 50 East Congress Parkway, from April 25 until May 6.

With this beautiful program, the Joffrey Ballet heralds the retuni of Edwaard Liang's critically acclaimed and highly successful 2008 world premiere, Age of Innocence. Set to the music of Philip Glass and Thomas Newman, Age of Innocence explores the uncertainty, tension and passion of human romance. Liang was inspired by the novels of Jane Austin in which individuals frequently struggle to express themselves beyond the confines of social decorum. The choreography juxtaposes nineteenth century austerity with contemporary athleticism and sensuality.

Also featured is Jerome Robbins' 1970 masterpiece In the Night. Danced to Frederick Chopin's piano nocturnes, Robbins portrays three couples whose relationships range from tender romance to stoic reserve and passionate confrontation. As the six gather for a final dance, Robbins offers a window into universal human nature.

The centerpiece of the "Spring Desire" program is a world premiere by San Francisco-based Val Caniparoli. Caniparoli's choreography is rooted in classical ballet but influenced by all forms of movement, including modern, ethnic and social dancing. His new work for the Joffrey, titled Incantations, is set to a meditative score of the same name by Russian minimalist composer Alexandre Rabinovitch-Barakovsky. The arc of the music and the ballet is continuous movement, akin to a vortex or a mantra. Underlying this spiral motion is a sense of human spirituality, mysticism and prayer. Supporting the ritual atmosphere of Incantations are set and costume designs by Sandra Woodall and lighting design by Lucy Carter, also the lighting designer for the Joffrey's U.S. Premiere of Wayne McGregor's Infra.

"The human spirit is invariably the focus of dance and the dancers of The Joffrey Ballet," said Ashley C. Wheater, Joffrey Artistic Director. "These three choreographers are able to touch audiences with vignettes drawn from the human experience. By combining their work in one program, I hope we provide a sense of the emotional range available within our art form."

The Joffrey Ballet's "Spring Desire" program runs from Wednesday, April 25 through Sunday, May 6 at the Auditorium Theatre. The complete performance schedule is as follows: Wednesday, April 25, 7:30 pm; Friday, April 27, 7:30 pm; Saturday, April 28, 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm; Sunday, April 29, 2:00 pm; Thursday, May 3, 7:30 pm; Friday, May 4, 7:30 pm; Saturday, May 5, 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm; Sunday, May 6, 2:00 pm.

Single tickets range from $25 to $149 and are available for purchase at The Joffrey Ballet's official Box Office located in the lobby of Joffrey Tower, 10 E. Randolph Street, as well as the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University Box Office, all Ticketmaster Ticket Centers, by telephone at (800) 982-2787, or online at www.ticketmaster.com.

Chicago Ridge Library is announcing their programs

The Chicago Ridge Public Library, 10400 S. Oxford, is hosting an Electronic "Petting Zoo" with Best Buy on Monday, April 23rd at 7:00 p.m. Come to the library and try out some of the newest technology gadgets. Best Buy employees will be on hand to answer your questions on everything from E-readers to Netbooks. Registration recommended. Contact Pamela Lessner

The Chicago Ridge Public Library, 10400 S. Oxford, is hosting Intermediate Computers, April 17, 10 am until 12 pm. Learn how to work with files and folders and how to back up your data. Requirements: Computer Basics class or ability to use a computer. $5 fee per class.

In-person registration required. Call the library at 423-7753 with any questions ask for Pamela. The Chicago Ridge Public Library, 10400 S. Oxford, is hosting Butterfly Gardening on Thursday, April 19th at 7:00 p.m. Bob Erlich is a member of Monarch Watch an organization dedicated to the preservation of the Monarch butterfly. His slide show will share how he got started and the specific plants needed to attract this magnificent insect to your garden. Bob will share gardening tips and bring along some of the Monarch's favorite plants. Special raffle for the attendees.

The Chicago Ridge Public is hosting The Challenge of Parenting Emerging Adults on Monday, April 30th at 7:00 p.m. Emerging Adulthood is a phrase now used to describe the span of like between adolescence and full-fledged adulthood. Learn how to launch your child(ren) into adulthood in this lively presentation. Hank Zwirkoski, a gifted communicator and Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor with the Chicago Ridge Youth & Family Commission will lead the program. Join us for this free program.

The Chicago Ridge Public Library, 10400 S. Oxford, is hosting The Challenge of Parenting Emerging Adults on Monday, April 30th at 7:00 p.m. Emerging Adulthood is a phrase now used to describe the span of like between adolescence and full-fledged adulthood. Learn how to launch your child(ren) into adulthood in this lively presentation. Hank Zwirkoski, a gifted communicator and Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor with the Chicago Ridge Youth & Family Commission will lead the program. Join us for this free program.

The Chicago Ridge Public is hosting Pub Trivia at Jack Desmonds on April 25th, 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Back by popular demand, library sponsored pub trivia makes a repeat appearance at Jack Desmond's Irish Pub. Teams will compete for a special grand prize at the end of the evening. Jack Desmond's is located at 10339 Ridgeland Avenue. Must to 21+ to attend.

The Chicago Ridge is hosting Introduction to the Internet on Tuesday, April 24 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Learn to navigate the web using Internet Explorer. Requirement: must to able to use a mouse. Stop by the library to register and pre-pay the $5 fee. Feel free to call the library at 423-7753 with any questions.

The Chicago Ridge Public Library, 10400 S. Oxford, is hosting Green Cleaning Essentials on Thursday, May 3rd at 7:00 p.m. Prairie godmothers will show us how to make your own natural cleaning supplies. We will raffle off two "Green Cleaning Kits" for the attendees. Call the library at 423-7753 to register for this free program.

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RE-SPICED: A Silk Road Cabaret

This world premier was created by Jamil Khoury, directed by Steve Scott, musical direction by Ryan Brewster and choreography by Brenda Didier

RE-SPICED: A Silk Road Cabaret is a playful, sexy, occasionally subversive, always entertaining, musical pastiche of Asian and Middle Eastern images in American and British song and verse.

From Broadway show tunes to pop, from country to rap, folk to rock, poetry to prose, Re-Spiced turns the tables on "us" and "them" with panache and glee and leaves us wondering just who's who?

Tickets are only $30. To purchase tickets, call 312-857-1234 x201 or Performance VenueThe Historic Chicago Temple Building, 77 W. Washington St., Pierce Hall Chicago

The performance is 95 minutes long with no intermission. No performances on Friday, April 27th and Saturday, April 28th. The cast will be traveling to Governors State University to perform there on the 28th. Tickets for that performance are being sold exclusively by Governors State University.

A Presentation about the Herero of Namibian, formerly known as South-West Africa from the German Sudwestafrida, between the years 1884-1915

This is not your ordinary play but quite unique and cutesy. The facts of history during the German occupation was so interesting and were lightly presented by some very talented actors. Credit is also given to writer Jackie Sibblies Drury and director Eric Ting for their comic approach to such a serious situation.

We caught the seriousness of genecide, but my interest picqued when the actors were interwining the actual facts of Namibia during the years of 1884 through 1915 and pretending they were amateur actors.

The ability of actors: Bernard Balbot, Kamal Angelo Bolden, Tracey N. Bonner, Jake Cohen, Leah Karpel, Travis Turner to show the audience their emotions, is proof of their success.

Joseph Leo Bwarie (Frankie Valli) has tour over 40 cities within the 4 year tour. Preston Truman Boyd (Bob Gaudio) is grateful to be part of the Jersey Boys family.

Jersey Boys belong in Chicago

Jersey Boys had a great run in Chicago from 2007 through 2010 and continue to break box office records throughout the United States. This occurred after becoming a resident production after the show opened to rave reviews at the Bank of America Theatre.

Jersey Boys are back again. They are here until June 3rd, 2012. They had a rollicking reception opening night April 11th.

This story is an adult nursry rhyme that will last a life time for Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons. Americans loves when the underdog gets the bone. This story of a group of blue collar ethnic boys from the wrong side of the tracks become one of the biggest American Pop Music sensations of all times.

The energy of the cast is high and the sound systems is fantastic and there is no reason for someone to miss this show this year. I cannot take my eyes off of Frankie Valli, Joseph Leo Bwarie, he reminds me of the real thing. Even though I had seen Jersey Boys before, this production is so great it was worth seeing it again.

The original cast recording of Jesey Boys produced by Bob Gaudio, was recently certified Platinum by the Recording Industry Associaton of America. The cast recording is now available on Rhino Records.

Performance Schedule for Jersey Boys is as follows: Tues., at 7:30 pm. Wed., 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.. Thurs. at 7:30 p.m. Fri. at 7:30 p.m. Say. at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. and Sundays at 2:00 p.m.

Ticket prices start at $37 and are available at Broadway in Chicago Box Office (24 W. Randolph St., 151 W. Randolph St., 18 W. Monroe St. and 175 E. Chestnut. or call 800-775-2000.

You can see more about this story on our website at www.villageviewls.weebly.com/

This page was written composed and layed out by Annette Dixon

Motherhood the Musical

Sue Fabisch, a hilarious author and songwriter has a 20 song hit with this production of Motherhood the Musical at the Royal George Theatre.

The story is about Amy, the soon to be mom and Barb, an over worked, underpaid, stress out mother of five; Brooke, a lawyer who works too much and barely sees her kids; and Tasha, a single mom struggling to balance work, family and a divorce.

The story is the music and humor and let me tell you this is a laugh a minute even for those who are male, and those without children, because we all have or had a mother.

Comedy is great and I am sure no matter what age we all need comedy and music. This production has it all.

Because of the repetitiveness of the melodic music and quick timing of the interaction of actors, this musical moves quickly and the storyline is cohesive. The best story about motherhood written in such a light, humorous, fluffy way, I was happy to see the men in the audience laugh hysterically.

I noticed some men in the audience were quite uncomfortable with feminine discrete issues. It was funny to watch them.

Motherhood the Musical is playing at Royal George until June 17 and tickets are on sale from $48 to $65. Tickets can be purchased at www.ticketmaster.com or by calling 800-982-2787 or the Royal George Box office at 1641 North Halsted.

Crafters Corner

To advertise, call Linda for more information at 312-624-8996.

Crafters Wanted

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by Johnny Lopez, Ph.D.

(NAPSA)-When it comes to pet food, most people give little thought to the ingredients in the bag. Fortunately, in some pet foods, there's a multitasking molecule-L-carnitine-that can do your animal a world of good. Here's how:

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Surprise!

Fat is good for the heart

An estimated 80 percent of the energy to run that vital organ comes from fat. Together, fat and L-carnitine can generate the fuel the heart needs to keep up with the daily beat. The largest concentration of L-carnitine resides in the heart and skeletal muscles. In order to maintain a healthy heart in all stages of a growing animal's life, make sure the pet food that supports heart health includes L-carnitine.

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Skeletal muscles require constant energy-and there, L-carnitine plays an important role. It also helps optimize blood flow, which is controlled in and out of the muscles via clamps in the capillary beds. It's important that these clamps remain open so muscles get the nutrients and oxygen they need. L-carnitine helps keep these clamps open, helping muscles with their maintenance, function and recovery. For senior pets, it can help maintain muscle mass.

Antioxidants:

To serve and protect

The body continually produces free radicals, which can wreak havoc on it. When free radicals come into contact with cell membranes, they can cause cell death, loss of tissue integrity and a weaker immune system. One way to keep free radicals in check is with antioxidants, which the body produces to fight them. L-carnitine was recently shown to help the body crank out more of its own antioxidant defense by turning on its antioxidant genes. It helps the body produce its own defense to control free radical damage. L-carnitine also offers overall support of immune health.

Giving Them L-carnitine

It's estimated the body can produce only about a third of the L-carnitine it needs-the rest must come from food and dietary supplements. That's where a company called Lonza comes in. It's recognized as the global L-carnitine expert and leader in the manufacturing of CarnikingTM-a special grade of L-carnitine developed for pets. Savvy pet parents look for CarnikingTM L-carnitine in pet foods used in weight management, in active formulas, and in foods designed to help support muscle development and function in animals of all ages.

Learn_More

You can get further information about L-carnitine and animal health from your veterinarian and online at www.carniking.com.

• Dr. Lopez received a master's in animal science and a doctorate in monogastric nutrition from the University of Missouri.

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Simple Ways To Help Children Get To Sleep

(NAPSA)-Taking the battle out of bedtime may be less of a _nightmare with the help of some pediatric sleep specialists.

For example, many parents don't know that some kids have trouble falling asleep because they _are too tired, says Jennifer _Waldburger, LCSW, one of the co-founders of Sleepy Planet.

Some children can become overtired and some parents may be trying to put them to bed too late. Most children need to go to bed between 7 and 8 p.m., and if they don't, they may become too stimulated.

Even with an early bedtime, many children may need some activity before bedtime-some games or playtime after dinner-to help them calm down.

If your child is still stalling, he or she may want to talk about _something that is causing anxiety, such as their day at school. Offering kids some choices can help. Ask which pajamas they want to wear or which stories they want you to read.

A bedtime routine can be soothing, whether it's reading together or watching a show such as "Pajanimals," a series co-produced by 24-hour preschool television channel Sprout, The Jim Henson Company, and Northern Ireland's Sixteen South Television. Airing on Sprout in the U.S., the series was designed to help parents and caregivers establish a bedtime routine for their preschoolers. Waldburger and fellow co-founder of Sleepy Planet Jill Spivack lend their expertise to the bedtime themes and song lyrics that cover topics such as encouraging preschoolers to stay in bed, dealing with nightmares and missing your parents at night.

"Pajanimals" characters-Sweetpea Sue the pony, the excitable duck Squacky, the creative cow CowBella and the optimistic puppy Apollo-were de_signed by the world famous Oscar(r) and Emmy(r) Award-winning Jim Henson's Creature Shop.

"Parents have told us that bedtime is one of the most challenging times of the day," said Andrew Beecham, senior vice president of programming at Sprout. "This new full-length series provides loveable characters modeling the typical day-to-bedtime transitions that preschoolers encounter every day."

"Puppets are a great way to connect with young children and encourage them to explore their fears and curiosity," said Lisa Henson, CEO of The Jim Henson Company. "These cuddly friends welcome viewers to snuggle up for a story and a song."

For more information call 1.8.SPROUT.411 or go to www.SproutOnline.com.

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SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 38 | Number 21 | May 1, 2012

Burbank, Evergreen Park, Hickory Hills, Justice, Oak Lawn

Justice pavements under scrutiny

by Jan Glaz

On April 23rd at the Village of Justice Board of Trustees meeting a motion carried to approve the designation of Special Service Areas for street reconstruction and to authorize the Village Engineer and Village Attorney to provide the necessary evaluations to determine the scope and costs of the project. At the request of the Village of Justice Board Members, Hoefferie-Butler Engineering, Inc. reassessed the various roadway pavements.

A previous assessment was performed in 2009 and since then there have been numerous resurfacing projects and the total reconstruction of the Roberts Park Subdivision roadways, but most of the village roadways have deteriorated since 2009. Trustee Small aided in the effort to standardize the linear feet of roadway that would be the responsibility of the individual homeowner to finance. The designated starting point is subject to revision.

Good Financial News is the result of a motion that carried approving a quote from Miserow Financial for Life/AD&D Insurance from Mutual of Omaha at a 30.17% decrease in premium from the price of the current carrier with a 2 year rate lock, and to extend the employee paid Dental Plan for one additional month (until June 1, 2012) in order to review the network and benefits of an alternate carrier.

Young Winners: Over sixty sixth graders from Justice School District 109 competed in the annual Village of Justice Sticker Design Contest; three awards were presented. The topic of the contest focused on unfocused drivers, "Don't Drive Distracted". The new Justice Vehicle Sticker and first place winner is Anna Obrochta of Brodnicki School; the Second Place award was presented to Amari Dismuke from Wilkins School and the Third Place to Hunter Perecich of Brodnicki School.

Public Reminder: The Village Clerk announced that two important Public Hearings are scheduled to review the plans for Municipal Aggregation of electric supply rates for Justice. The first hearing is Saturday, May 5, at 10:00 a.m. and the second hearing will be on Wednesday, May 9th at 7:00 p.m.

Business Endnotes: Trustee Ed Rusch Jr. introduced two business licenses requests that met with approval; Blue Nose Brewery doing business at 7857 Cronin Avenue and North Pole Refrigeration for a business office at 8805 W. 83rd Street.

Hickory Hills joins debt recovery program

by Jan Glaz

An Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Hickory Hills and the Illinois Office of .the Comptroller Local Debt Recovery Program met with City Council approval at the Village of Hickory Hills Board of Trustees Meeting April 26th. The agreement will allow the city to obtain payment of money owed the city by withholding income tax refunds to certain parties both residential and businesses. City Attorney V. Cainkar commented that there is a minimum to the amount of debt owed that is sent to debt recovery and to that amount an additional fee is added, to be paid by the debtor.

City Engineer T. Lang had good news to report involving the low bid for this year's road program coming in from Crowley Sheppard Asphalt, Inc. located at 6525 West 95th Street, Chicago Ridge, IL. The bid of $378,185.10 came in lower than the city's estimate of around $410,000.00. The Board of Trustees drew a unanimous vote for Crowley Sheppard Asphalt a highly rated company.

Budget amounts came under scrutiny along with a discussion of an hourly pay versus a salaried pay for a part time position for the duties of Village Commissioner based roughly on 1000 hours a year. Mayor Howley commented that the previous commissioner worked without a problem at a yearly salary and that the commissioner was always accessible by phone and he would like to continue the salary based pay. The board agreed to continue the pay discussion and make a decision at the next board of trustees meeting.

Note Worthy: Alderman McAvoy distributed information regarding the 'Hills 1st Annual Bunco Night' to be held on May 16th at 6:00 p.m. at the Sabre Room, located at 8900 W. 95th Street, in Hickory Hills. Bring family, friends and neighbors for a great time but you must be 18 years old or older to attend. Events include raffles, baskets, and door prizes. Dinner, a dessert table, beer and wine are also part of the fun evening. Bunco night is a fundraiser for the Hills Chamber of Commerce serving the communities of Hickory Hills and Palos Hills Illinois. Tickets are $25.00 for information call Donna at 708-364-7739

Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce hosting Monthly Luncheon

The Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce will host its monthly luncheon on May 8th at the Stony Creek Golf Course & Banquet Facility, 5850 W. 103rd St .

Registration begins at 11:30a.m. followed by lunch at noon. This month we welcome Jim Garrett, President /CEO of the Chicago Southland Convention & Visitor Bureau, who will be giving a 15 minute presentation on the CSCVB.

This is a good opportunity for networking and meeting other businesses in and around Oak Lawn . Come out and join us. All events are open to members and business owners.

Please contact the Chamber office at (708) 424-8300 or email office@oaklawnchamber.com to reserve your spot.

Founded in 1946, today the Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce consists of more than 300 members. The Chamber of Commerce works to represent and advance the Oak Lawn business community, striving with constant integrity, fairness and cooperation to promote and improve the economic atmosphere, business climate and image of Oak Lawn .

. Learn more about the Chamber at www.oaklawnchamber.com

Left to Right: Deborah Grad (Vice President Zone Manager, Standard Bank), Dan Maier (Recreation Director, Hickory Hills Park District), Michael Helsdingen (Senior Vice President Private Banking, Standard Bank), Kathryn Siuta (Assistant Financial Center Manager - Standard Bank), Jennifer Fullerton (Executive Director, Hickory Hills Park District).

Standard Bank donates $4,000 to Hickory Hills Park District

Standard Bank has once again sponsored the special events and programs for the Hickory Hills Park District. The $4,000 will be allocated to pay for the park district special events and monthly senior luncheons which include: Egg, Carrot & Candy Hunt, Summer Concert Series, Street Fair rides and attractions, Bike Rodeo, Pumpkin Fest, Children's Christmas Party, VIP Party, Snowy Downhill Egg Hunt and monthly Senior Luncheons, just to name a few. The bank has been sponsoring these events since 2007. Also Standard Bank employees volunteer at almost all of the special events. In return for the sponsorship, Standard Bank is able to have a promotional table at special events, display a banner and place an advertisement in the district's program brochure throughout the year. More importantly the bank continues to show support to the community by continuing to offer special events to the community that the entire family can enjoy.

Village View

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FAR SOUTH EDITION

Volume 10 | Number 9 | May 1, 2012

Oak Forest, Orland Park, Tinley Park

Orland Autorized to solicit energy

by Jan Glaz

An ordinance to adopt an electric aggregation plan of operation and governance met with approval at the Village of Orland Park Board of Trustees meeting on Monday April 16th. This ordinance will allow the Village to solicit proposals and enter into service agreements to facilitate the sale and purchase of electricity and related services and equipment. The village will develop a Plan of Governance with assistance from the Village's consultant (NIME) Northern Illinois Municipal Electric. The plan provides for access to all applicable residential customers and will meet all requirements established by law concerning aggregated service.

Aggregation Costs: There are no direct aggregation costs, impacts or consultant fees. Consultant fees are paid via the third party electrical suppliers associated with municipal aggregation. However, there will be indirect staff cost for establishment of the program, coordination of the marketing, and the interaction of responding to questions from residents.

Business of Bills: The city council approved to waive the process of hidding for utility bill outsourcing; the service of printing, inserting and mailing utility bills. Because the village is implementing a new software system and much of their staff time is devoted to learning and working in the new system, it's not the best time to be looking for a new vendor. The current village contract is with Infosend, a company located in Downers Grove, Illinois. The original three year contract with Infosend will be extended two years and the annual price for each printed utility bill through March 2014, will equate to $16,249 and $16,386, respectively, unless 30 days written notice is given prior to the annual anniversary date of the executed contract. The original budget for the utility bill printing service was $17,000.

Worthy of Mention: Before the meeting adjourned a motion carried for the purchase of new outdoor furniture for the Centennial Park Aquatic Center. It was reported that replacing worn, outdated furniture is an ongoing effort. Although 70 chairs were purchased in 2012, 164 chairs remain to be replaced. Contract Furnishings International, Inc. was chosen by Staff as the lowest bidder. The purchase will include 62 chaise lounge chairs, 18 mid-back chairs and shipping, for a total amount of $12,383.64

Oak Forest properties receive long term tax break

by Jan Glaz

A Resolution supporting a Class 6b Tax Incentive for S & J Construction for a property located at 4245 West 166th Street; Oak Forest's largest property zoned for industrial use, met with approval on April 24th at the Village of Oak Forest Board of Trustees Meeting. S & J constructs overhead interstate signage for the state of Illinois and Indiana and is looking to build an addition to their warehouse in Oak Forest. The city's approval of the resolution allows for a tax incentive to be granted that is provided by the Cook County Assessor's Office. The low property tax rate reduction is for a period of ten years.

The City Council also approved a Resolution supporting a Class 8 Tax Incentive for a property vacant since 2008, located at 5220 West 159th Street, the site of an old Duncan Donuts. The new owners will renovate the building and grounds and plan to open a carry-out restaurant. Board approval grants them access, through the Cook County Assessor's office, for a long term, property tax break.

Waterline Alert: City Clerk Scott Burkhardt warned the residents of Oak Forest that a scam has been reported to the village whereas homeowners are receiving mail about the need to have the waterlines that go from the street to their home worked on. Burkhardt said the mailings are not coming from the City of Oak Forest or sponsored by the city. Alderman Simon commented that it's a gimmick saying that probably only one out of a thousand people have to have the top of their waterlines worked on.

Last Item of Interest: Alderman Keating provided the details surrounding the approval of raising Emergency Response Billing Rates. Keating was advised by the village billing company that it was time to raise the rates. The last raise occurred about 2½ years ago. Alderman Ensign questioned how the rates compare with other communities. Keating replied that the billing company takes a survey every year, a sampling of 60 or 70 surrounding communities and that Oak Forest tries to keep their rates lower than the mid-range of the that survey.

Eighth grade students from Cardinal J. Bernardin Catholic School in Orland Hills, pose in front of the Capitol Building during their annual field trip to Washington DC.

Cardinal Bernardin 8th Grade Students Explore Nation's Capital

On April 9th, an intrepid group of fifty-six 8th grade students from Cardinal Joseph Bernardin Catholic School (CJB) boarded a plane for Washington DC for an educational and unforgettable field trip. The trip is hosted annually by CJB and coordinated by eighth grade teacher Mrs. Christine Kirk along with WorldStrides, an educational student travel organization. Kirk has been taking students on this special trip for ten years and the experience provides a valuable and memorable learning experience for all.

"I thoroughly enjoy going to Washington every year with my students so that they are able to experience first hand the sites and history of our nation's capital. To see how enthusiastic they are about the trip, and the places they see, is beyond words," said Kirk.

"Whenever I run into former students, one of the first things they talk about was how much fun their trip to Washington was and how they will never forget it! To me, that's what the trip is all about."

The students spent four jam-packed days in Washington, visiting sites such as Arlington Cemetery, the Pentagon, the White House, the Capitol, Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, National Cathedral, Newseum, Holocaust Museum, Ford's Theatre, Smithsonian Complex, National Museum of Crime and Punishment, Mount Vernon, and all the memorials including FDR, Martin Luther King, Jefferson, Lincoln, Vietnam, Korean, Iwo Jima, and World War II.

Highlights of the trip included seeing U.S. Treasury Secretary, Timothy Geithner, coming out of the West Wing. Four students were also given the honor of laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier after the changing of the guards at Arlington National Cemetery.

Moira Collins of Tinley Park was one of the students chosen and summed up her experience as follows, "Getting to lay the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was the biggest honor of my life."

Village View

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SOUTH SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 13 | Number 9 | May 1, 2012

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

Palos Heights presents retirement awards

by Matt Mayer

The April 17 Palos Heights City Council meeting commenced with Mayor Robert Straz presenting an retirement awards to Ronald Longanecker for 27 years as the water operator for the Public Works Department as well as Arthur Phillips for 23 years as 4th Ward Alderman. A request from Mayor Straz to appoint Gerald T. Mc Govern to fill the unexpired term of Phillips was approved. The city council also approved Straz's request for the reappointment of Gale Greenwald, Tom Gregory, and Donald Mertic to the Recreation Advisory Board for a five-year term ending April 30, 2017.

Other highlights: A request to purchase ten indoor spinning cycles and one instructional cycle from Direct Fitness Solution in an amount not to exceed $14,700 was approved as well as a request for the payment of completed work at the Community Park Picnic Pavilion for $19,975.00. A contract request with Cedar Valley to supply and install safety mulch at Meyers Park and Walsh-Westgate Park in an amount not to exceed $5,605.00 was also approved.

A contract request with RenoSys to supply and install a PVC pool liner and wrap the stones in the wading pool in an amount not to exceed $9,000.00 was approved as well as a request for the final payment to Crowley Sheppard Asphalt for $10,000.00.

A wall sign variance from 24" to 36" for a new 7-Eleven at 11900 S. Harlem Avenue was approved as well as a maintenance agreement between the city and Franchise Realty Investment Trust- IL for a portion of Navajo Creek at the Mc Donald's at 7100 W. 127 Street. A request to hire the law firm of Mahoney, Silverman and Cross, LLC in an amount not to exceed $3,000.00 was also approved. The week of May was proclaimed "Motorcycle Awareness Month".

Chicago Ridge has E-Waste container location

by Matt Mayer

In a telephone conversation with Chicago Ridge regarding the April 17 Chicago Ridge Board of Trustees meeting, officials approved E-Waste containers to be located at the Public Works Building at 10046 S. Anderson Avenue. The hours for disposal are 7 a.m to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday "all year long". Items to recycle include computers, computer equipment such as printers etc, radios, hair dryers, curling irons, and essentially all electronic items. Additional information may be obtained by calling the Public Works Department at 708.857.4457.

Other highlights: An ordinance requiring that all ice cream truck drivers receive a complete back ground check was approved. Officials at a previous board meeting discussed preparing this ordinance for the protection of children. An ordinance requiring bartenders to be at least 21 years of age was approved. This was also discussed at a previous meeting when officials discovered some village establishments employed 18 year olds to tend bar.

An ordinance regarding the fire department order of rank was approved as well as an ordinance regarding the police department order of rank. An ordinance for a special use for RC3 Sales at 107th Street and Central Avenue permitting the establishment to have only a few cars to be offered for sale in front of the building that is the former Landis Plastics building was also approved.

A Salvation Army Solicitation Request for June 1st and 2nd and November 16th to December 24th was approved as well as a request to proclaim April as "Motor Cycle Awareness Month".

Worth amends stray cat ordinance

by Matt Mayer

Officials at the April 17 Worth Board of Trustees meeting approved an amendment to an ordinance pertaining to stray cats. The amended ordinance allows stray cats to be housed at the Animal Welfare League (AWL) in Chicago Ridge for a period of three days. The ordinance allowed cats to be housed for period of seven days prior to the amendment.

The village is charged a daily housing fee for stray cats picked up in the village and brought to the AWL. Police Chief Martin Knomayer said the fee is typically $155 for a seven-day period. Mayor Randy Keller said that the ordinance was amended in an effort to save money. "I don't want it to appear that the village doesn't like cats", said Keller.

In other village news, the police department has received an increased number of thefts from vehicles as well as garages, with some reoccurrences in the same area or even the same residence. The thefts have been occurring in the late evening and early morning hours. Most of the vehicles and garages were not locked and where forced entry was made, the thieves usually left with something of value that was in plain site. The police department requests that residents lock their vehicles, homes, sheds and garages and not leave valuable items such as GPS units in their vehicles. The police department also recommends installing motion detector lights, alarms, and video surveillance if possible. Barking dogs are also an excellent deterrent.

Community services are used by Palos residents

The Palos Township Health Service will hold a cholesterol screening on May 14th from 8:30am to 12:30pm.

A total cholesterol screening is $10 for residents and $15 for nonresidents. This test tells only the total cholesterol value. Fasting is preferred.

The Cholestech test tells the total value, the high density, the low density, the triglyceride value, and the ratios as well as glucose values. Do not eat or drink after midnight the night before the test. A fee of $35 is charged for residents and $45 for nonresidents.

A Hemoglobin A1C test can be performed for diabetics which reflects the average blood sugar levels over the previous three months. No fasting is required for this test. The fee is $10 for residents and $15 for nonresidents.

ALL FEES ARE CASH ONLY. Call the Health Service to schedule an appointment at 598-2441. All screenings are done at Palos Township at 10802 South Roberts Road in Palos Hills .

Sandburg Speech alumnus and Century teacher, Leah Coleman, with Destiny Strothers, Alyssa Zaczek, Lauren Rasch, Rahul Jacob, Ryan Fish and Patrick Kelly.

Sandburg Speech team performed recently

"I was inspired to join Sandburg Speech three years ago when I sat in your place and watched the speech team perform" Sandburg Speech Team member Rahul Jacob, who placed 5th in State in Humorous Interpretation and who will be attending nationals in June, shared his inspiration with the 8th grade students at Century Junior High on Monday, April 23rd.

For the last five years, 8th grade teacher and Sandburg Speech alumnus,Leah Coleman, invites the Sandburg Speech State Qualifiers to perform their pieces for all the 8th grade classes. "Ms. Coleman was one of the best competitors ever for Sandburg Speech," head coach Dan Sackett shared with the Century students."She placed 6th in the nation in Humorous Interpretation." During the day, Coleman could be seen sharing performance tips for national competition with Jacob.

Lauren Rasch performed her 4th in State in Prose Reading about a poor young girl who longs for a special Christmas present. After her performance, Rasch urged the students to get involved in Sandburg Speech in their freshman year."I regret not getting involved my freshman year.

Village View

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B-MAC EDITION

Volume 6 | Number 9 | May 1, 2012

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Terrorism Insurance for Alsip

by Jan Glaz

An announcement introduced by Trustee McGreal at the Village of Alsip Board Meeting on April, 16th concerned adding Insurance coverage for the possibility of Terrorism. It was reported that the Village has never included terrorism insurance with the renewal of the city's Property and Casualty Insurance. Presently the renewal policy will be with Scottsdale and ESIP, through Boyle, Flagg and Seaman, Inc.

The reason Alsip is purchasing coverage for terrorism is due to an onslaught of protestors arriving in Chicago this year; between 200 and 400 thousand. The Villages mutual aid programs with fire and police could bring the village property and employees up to the front line in case of a terrorist act. The Federal Government dictates the pricing on the subsequent coverage. Cost is based on location, the state and county. Cook County has a top ten rate. An estimate given for Alsip's additional terrorism coverage is $9,290. "We have a lot of hotels here that we actually have overflow from all of this," said Mayor Kitching.

Spending approvals: The purchase of software from TKB Associates; two additional scanners and training or incidentals at a cost not exceed $15,000, for the digital storage and reachieving of Village records. The Fire Department was granted incentive pay in the amount of $27,404.24 and holiday pay in the amount of $21,476.88 for the fiscal year 2011/2012.

End Note: Permission was given for the Village Sportsman Club, located at 5201 W. 115th Street, to erect a mobile marquee along 115th Street for one year to advertise safety training programs.

Crestwood upgrades debt collection

by Jan Glaz

An agreement between The Village of Crestwood and (MCA) Municipal Collections of America, Inc. met with approval on April 19th at the Village of Crestwood Board Meeting. Why did Crestwood choose Municipal Collections of America located, in Lansing, Illinois?

While most other collection agencies work on the largest debts first and only call smaller debts (<$1,000 per) when they have exhausted efforts on the more lucrative collections, MCA will call every debt on a predetermined time schedule based on days since last contacted, regardless of size. MCA also states that their ability to locate contact phone numbers and addresses for those who do not wish to be found is second to none. Plus, they have world experience with multiple ordinances to know their effectiveness and vehicles equipped with Automated License Plate Recognition Cameras, allowing for vehicular towing or booting.

The city council accepted a low bid from First Midwest Bank for a loan in the amount of $119,952.00, for a 5 yr. term, for a 2012 International Dump Truck before approving appointments to hire summer help for the Public Works Department, at a pay rate of $9.00 per hour: Edgar Iturbe Mendez, Chicago; Charles Roman, Crestwood and Mark Roman III, Crestwood.

Deputy Fire Chief, of the Crestwood Fire Department, Duane Owen recommended Brendan Murphy of Palos Heights, IL to be appointed to the position of Part-Time Fire and Rescue Unit. Brendan is a Certified EMT and is putting himself through the Firefighter's Academy.

Motorcycle Recognition: Mayor Robert Stranczek made an announcement at the close of the meeting proclaiming the month of May as Motorcycle Awareness Month. A letter of proclamation read by the Mayor stated a list of motorcycle facts: There are over 614,682 registered motorcyclists statewide. The members of A.B.A.T.E. of Illinois (A brotherhood Aimed Toward Education) continually promote motorcycle safety, education and awareness in high school drivers education programs and to the general public and have presented motorcycle awareness programs to over 100,000 participants in Illinois over the past five years. Motorcyclists of Illinois have contributed extensive volunteerism and money to national and community charitable organizations. Motorcycles are a common and economical means of transportation that reduces fuel consumption and road wear, and contributes to the relief of traffic and parking congestion.

Mayor Stranczek urged, during the month of May, all roadway users should unite in an effort to improve safety and awareness on our streets and highways, in Crestwood, and throughout the great State of Illinois.

Cook County's Gang Task Force welcomes Midlothian

by Jan Glaz

An important Resolution to Execute an Intergovernmental Agreement for Cook County Sheriff's Police Gang Task Force between the Cook County Sheriff's Police Department and the Village of Midlothian Police Department met with approval April 25th at the Midlothian Board of Trustees Meeting. The Gang Crimes Task Force is an operation coordinated by the Sheriff's department in an effort to curb violence and criminal activity in the communities along Route 30 from the Illinois/Indiana state line west to I-57. The Sheriff's Police gang crimes unit brings together task force members coupled with an aggressive patrol strategy and truck, traffic and DUI enforcement to quell criminal activity.

On the importance of entering into an Intergovernmental Agreement between Midlothian and the Cook County Sheriff's Police Department Mayor Stephens said, "This will help us not only to be of service to our neighboring communities but also for our police officers to avail themselves of the services of the Gang Task Force, and gain in experience from serving with other police departments on similar types of issues." Other participating cities are Chicago Heights, Ford Heights, Lynwood, Matteson, Park Forest and Sauk Village.

Approved Spending: The Board of Trustees agreed to accept the lowest bid received for the cities CDBG Water Main Replacement on Abbottsford Road in the amount of $388, 506.00 from Swallow Construction Corp. also approved, replacement turnout gear to include increased fiber protection filling for bunker jackets and pants for the Fire Department in the amount of $5,699.95

Final Note: Midlothian Clean-Up-Day will be May 19th. Residents can make note of any public area that needs sprucing up and call the Midlothian Public Works Department. Mayor Stephens revealed that his pet project for spring clean-up is always 'Weeds in the Sidewalk Cracks' because it's frustrating to see the gorgeous flower pots that someone is working to maintain next to weeds in the sidewalk cracks. Trustee Potempa cited the date of July 14th as the first annual Garden Walk, an event held in the afternoon. A map will be distributed with a list of all residents who volunteer to open their yard for the Garden Walk. Information pertaining to the Garden Walk will be posted on the Village website

350 Events Featured in Summer/Fall Festival & Events Guide

Looking for something to do this summer or planning ahead to attend one of the region's many fall festivals? Get all the information you'll need to have some fun at any of 350 festivals and events taking place in Chicago's south and southwest suburbs by requesting a free Chicago Southland Festivals & Events Guide today at 708-895-8200.

The May through October Chicago Southland Festivals & Events Guide contains 350 family-oriented activities and festivals, many with free admission, in the Southland's 62 communities. There's something for every member of the family. From one of the nation's largest festivals of Irish culture (Gaelic Park Irish Fest, May 25-28), to community festivals all summer long featuring some of the top names in entertainment (Tinley Park Caribbean Beach Block Party, July 15), to art fairs and cultural events, to butterfly festivals (Lake Katherine Monarch Butterfly Festival, September 16).

Plenty of sporting events will keep everyone happy. There's pro soccer with the Chicago Fire and at TOYOTA PARK in Bridgeview, pro baseball with the Chicago White Sox at U.S. Cellular Field in Chicago, harness racing at Balmoral Park in Crete, and independent league baseball with the Frontier League Champion Windy City ThunderBolts at Standard Bank Stadium in Crestwood. Don't forget live musical concerts this summer at the First Midwest Bank Amphitheater in Tinley Park, TOYOTA PARK in Bridgeview, and a great lineup of top R&B artists at the Country Club Hills Theater.

Call or e-mail the Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau today for a free, foldout copy of the Chicago Southland Festivals & Events Guide at 708-895-8200 or request a copy by e-mail at: info@visitchicagosouthland.com. Copies can also be ordered online at the official regional destination website, www.visitchicagosouthland.com.

Lipinski votes to stop interest rate increase on federal student loans, urges Bipartisan Compromise

Congressman Dan Lipinski voted for the Interest Rate Reduction Act, H.R. 4628, to prevent interest rates on federally subsidized student loans from doubling to 6.8 percent at a time when middle class families and students are already struggling to afford the cost of higher education.

"If Congress fails to act, interest rates on subsidized Stafford loans will double for more than 7 million students, costing them an additional $1,000 annually," Rep. Lipinski said. "I voted for this bill because I believe we should be making it easier, not harder, to get a college education. Unfortunately, Washington has once again turned what should be a bipartisan effort into an ugly, pointless, and potentially protracted political battle.

Talk about snatching defeat out of the jaws of victory. Certainly, I would have preferred to have voted on the House Democratic bill, which would prevent the rate hike and pay for it by eliminating subsidies for huge multinational oil companies. But House Republican leaders were not about to let that happen, and we were forced instead to vote on H.R. 4628. Now that the House has passed this bill, I will be encouraging my colleagues in both the House and Senate to call a truce and find a way to pay for keeping student loan interest rates low that both parties and the American people can support.

"A college degree is increasingly necessary in today's competitive, global, high-tech economy. But the obstacles to getting and paying for one are rising, as tuition and fees have doubled over the last two decades, graduates now leave college with an average debt of more than $25,000, and total student loan debt nationwide has surpassed total credit card debt.

As a former teacher, and the ranking member on the Research and Science Education Subcommittee, I have been working to make sure everyone has access to a quality education that prepares them for a successful career. That is what I am going to continue to do, while opposing efforts to politicize an issue that is enormously important to the middle class, which faces soaring costs for higher education and a weak economy that makes it difficult to find a good-paying job even for those who have earned a college degree."

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We have found that through the years of publishing the readers are interested in general information and also local happenings within their community. Therefore because we are fully electronic, we will not be accepting faxed or mailed news releases.

Mayor Sexton speaks at the Lions Club in Evergreen Park

Evergreen Park Mayor Jim Sexton was the featured speaker at a recent meeting of the Lions Club of Evergreen Park. The Mayor gave a complete updating of all activities in the community. The Mayor then answered all questions from Lion members. The Mayor was complemented on a job well done in making Evergreen Park a fine place to live. Greeting the Mayor are Lion Kathy Hatczel, Lion Stan Urbanczyk, Mayor Sexton, Lion Vice President Terry Summers, Lion Secretary Gil Drucker and Lion Joe Moran. For further info on the Lions club you may visit their web site @ http://lionsclubofevergreenparkil.lionwap.org.

What you need to know about the Summit

The G8 is the Super Bowl of all international conferences. And in 24 days, global leaders from the G8 countries will meet outside Washington, D.C. with President Obama to discuss critical issues for the coming year , the global economy, financial accountability, national security issues that are important to the world's biggest economies.

But what's missing from the agenda is fundamental to the health and wealth of every man, woman, and child in those countries and around the world food. Hunger is a pressing global problem, and G8 leaders have the power to help prevent another Horn of Africa famine. 578 children die every hour from simply not having enough to eat. Global hunger and malnutrition contribute to 5 million preventable deaths of children under five in developing countries each year.

World Vision believes nourished stomachs will do more to stabilize developing economies than political chit chat at Camp David. Hunger is a global issue, but there is something you can do to help fight it. World Vision is partnering with Save the Children, Bread for the World and the ONE Campaign to launch a petition drive on the White House website that calls on President Obama and other world leaders to make nutrition security a priority at this year's G8 Summit.

Share your voice and join us, urging G8 leaders to make fighting hunger a global priority: http://ow.ly/aft3O Interviews with World Vision staff attending the G8 Summit and photos, stories, and video clips from World Vision's work fighting hunger around the world are available.

Please contact Gardi Wilks at gardi@wilkspr.com, 708-434-5006 begin_of_the_skype_highlighting 708-434-5006 end_of_the_skype_highlighting.

Yes do it today!

Letter to the Editor

In 1972, folk singer Steve Goodman, wrote a song titled, "Lincoln Park Pirates" about a towing company known as Lincoln Towing Service.

The song is a parody of a problem that existed on the near North Side of Chicago. Visitors to the area often would return to an empty parking space after their cars were towed away. Thousands of complaints were filed against the company, most claiming that cars were towed without legal justification. People were often threatened if they tried to reclaim their car without paying an exorbitant fee.

With a catchy melody and scathing lyrics, the song has remained embedded in the fabric of my memories. What ever happened to that company?

On the morning of Thursday, December 29, 2011, I believe that I found them (or at least a reasonably similar operation). It was a rather cold morning and, unfortunately, I lost control of my vehicle after hitting a large patch of black ice that formed on the bridge over Harlem Avenue and 95th Street. My car slid over the median and struck a north bound vehicle traveling in the opposite direction. Fortunately no one was injured.

There were at least 2 other accidents that occurred on that bridge that morning which helps to explain why it took the Bridgeview Police Department over 2 hours to complete an accident report. The officer on scene told me that my vehicle was inoperable and that it would have to be towed. Apparently, he contacted iDeal Auto Center to arrange for this service. My car was towed the two mile distance between the accident scene and iDeal Auto Center 's impound yard. A few hours later, after arriving at the pound, I was informed that it would cost me $325 to retrieve my vehicle.

WOW, I really thought that the local economy was suffering. Apparently, I choose the wrong business to be in. What does that fee entail? I was told that there is a $195 towing fee, a $55 storage fee, a $40 processing fee and a $35 cleaning fee. This totals $325 (cost to tow an operable vehicle, in the Village of Bridgeview, after an unfortunate accident).

Welcome back Lincoln Towing, that old melody once again plays back in the corners of my mind.

Cynthia M. Mamroth

Groundbreaking for train station

Oak Forest Metra train station has a date in July for a complete makeover. The groundbreaking will take place early part of July according to the news release.

The new station will have architectural details, elongated canopies with prominent columns, and integrated landscaping. It will include a warming shelter, restrooms, indoor and outdoor seating and an environmentally friendly geothermal heating system.

No estimated completion date was announced, but residents will be able to track construction progress via the city's website, cable programming, weekly e-newsletters, Facebook page and Twitter account.

The city views the station as a key piece to a plan to revitalize the commercial area at 159th Street and Cicero Avenue.

Oak Forest last year received $1 million from the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association and $1.3 million from the Illinois Department of Transportation to help fund the station, which officials have said would cost about $3.4 million.

The projected cost of the station will be approximately $3.4 million dollars. Oak Forest received $1 million from the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association and $1.3 million dollars from the Illinois Department of Transportation. This amount will help enable Oak Forest to have a comfortable station in order to use Public Services. There are over 1600 weekday commuters, the release stated.

Do-It-Yourself Privacy and Light Control

(NAPSA)-Homeowners concerned that getting attractive, safe and effective blinds means hiring expensive contractors for complicated installations will be pleased to know that there's an easier option.

The leading manufacturer of doorglass can help you solve a multitude of entry door challenges in just minutes. Blinds and shades created for easy DIY installation let you control privacy and light, cut cleaning time and increase energy-efficiency-all while protecting the safety of your family with a cordless design.

The Problem

Traditional blinds and shades can be cumbersome to install and operate. What's more, according to Consumer Reports, blinds and shades with cords are among the most recalled products in the nation because of choking hazard risks for small children.

An Answer

Fortunately, add-on blinds and shades are easy to install and eliminate the need for cords be_cause they use an innovative cordless control system that is enclosed in tempered safety glass. You can raise, lower and tilt them with the touch of a finger. You can also adjust the level of natural light you let in, customize privacy options and help regulate room temperature to increase energy- efficiency. According to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), "When completely closed and lowered on a sunny window, highly reflective blinds can reduce heat gain by around 45 percent."

Expert's Advice

The DOE offers this advice: "Lower shades on sunlit windows in the summer. Shades on the south side of a house should be raised in the winter during the day, then lowered during the night."

"Safety and energy-efficiency are always top concerns," says Tom Kraeutler, host of the popular national weekly radio program and website on home improvement, "The Money Pit." "ODL Add-on Blinds and Shades are not only safer than traditional blinds and shades, but they are also an easy DIY remodeling project that the average homeowner can install in just minutes."

The blinds and shades can be installed on doors with raised frames or flush frames around doorglass and, once secured, do not swing when the door is opened or closed. They're available in white with a white frame, and the frame can be painted or stained if desired. There are standard half- and full-doorlight sizes, half-sidelight and full-sidelight, and larger sizes for flush fiberglass and steel patio doors. They carry a five-year warranty.

Learn More

For more information or to locate a nearby retailer, you can visit www.ODL.com.

Ten "To Do's" for Homeowners

(NAPSA)-It's time to check around the house to make sure things are operating efficiently. Here are 10 often-overlooked tasks to add to your home-cleaning list:

1. Check AC: Have your air-conditioning system tuned up to lower energy bills and ensure the system is runningat its manufacturer-rated efficiency.
2. Check Water Heater: If your water heater is more than five years old, check it for signs of leakage or rusting at the bottom.
3. Fertilize Lawn: Apply a high-nitrogen fertilizer once in the spring and again in the fall.
4. Check Refrigerator: Clean the refrigerator's condenser coil with a long-handled bottle brush and a vacuum cleaner with an attachment hose to remove dust and lint that could shut down the unit by causing it to overheat.
5. Clean Gutters: Clean the gutters so the rainwater flows easily off the roof. Clearing leaves prevents water from pooling in areas and attracting mosquitoes.
6. Organize Closets: Wash or dry-clean clothes before storing them in a zippered sweater or blanket bag or in a plastic bin.
7. Clean Carpets: Vacuum carpets and shampoo with a spray foam or powder, or rent a steamer from the hardware store for a deeper clean.
8. Wash Exterior Windows: Pick a cloudy day to wash exterior windows. Too much sun dries the cleaning solution too quickly and creates streaks.
9. File Important Documents: Store warranties, operating manuals and other documents in hanging files, folders or binders for easy access.
10. Check Batteries: The average home is filled with battery-operated devices-from flashlights to smoke detectors to cordless phones. Don't forget to test those devices and replace the batteries with fresh ones.

Test smoke alarms once per month and change the batteries at least twice per year. Ensure there is at least one working smoke alarm on every level of your home, particularly in or near sleeping areas.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, about 3,000 people in the U.S. lose their lives in residential fires every year. It's time to replace the batteries if the detector emits a warning sound, such as chirping or beeping.

Interstate Batteries makes 16,000 different kinds of batteries-powering automobiles, laptops and everything in between. Interstate All Battery Centers will have, find or build the right battery for just about any gadget around your home.

For more information, www.interstatebatteries.com.

Help For Your Best Lawn And Yard Ever

(NAPSA)-There's good news for homeowners who want the grass to grow greener on their side of the fence.

Throughout May, lawn, garden and equipment experts will provide free, one-on-one advice on everything from how to control pests and finally win the battle against weeds to troubleshooting a lawn mower that won't start.

"We'll help everyone who calls and take as long as necessary to get homeowners the answers they need," says Trey Rogers, an internationally known expert on lawn and yard care and leader of the hotline, which is sponsored by Briggs & Stratton Corporation.

For example, if your grass is brown or dying where it should be green, he advises, there may be a simple solution.

1. Can you blame it on the dog? The nitrogen in dog urine can burn your lawn and cause a widespread brown patch problem. You can create a special gravel or mulch area and train Fido to go there.

2. Is your mower blade dull? Dull blades tear rather than cleanly cut the grass, which can weaken and damage the lawn. Have the blade sharpened once a year.

3. Did you spill fertilizer or overfeed your lawn? Too much fertilizer is a well-known grass-burning culprit. Always follow package instructions when applying fertilizer. If your spreader drops too much in one place, water that spot on the lawn generously.

4. What about too much water? If you overwater or if water pools in certain areas on your lawn, you can drown the grass roots, causing areas to die out. Survey your lawn for dips you want to avoid dousing.

5. How do I grow grass in the shade? In deep shade, put down mulch instead. In partial shade, seed the area in the spring and fall, when leaves don't block the sunlight.

From May 1 to 31, anyone can get a free online or phone consultation with a lawn, garden or equipment expert on any problem by visiting www.YardSmarts.com or calling 1-866-YARD-TIPS (1-866-927-3847).

In addition, every Friday during the month of May, experts will be available for livechats to share information more broadly with home-owners. The top lawn and garden questions will be posted www.yardsmarts.com, where you can also find expert advice and information related to yard care and equipment.

If getting your yard in the best shape ever isn't enough motivation to check out the hotline, the company will give away a $300 gift certificate each week to one homeowner to purchase a new lawn mower or other needed yard care equipment.

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Just a few inches of floodwater can end up costing thousands of dollars in repairs, and flood damage isn't covered by homeowners insurance.

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"Mowimy po Polska!"

Prescription products can protect your dog from tapeworm infestation.

Protecting Your Pet From Parasites

(NAPSA)-Pet owners now have an easy way to protect their pets from the unpleasant experience of a tapeworm infestation.

How do you know if your dog has tapeworms? Traditional testing methods use a stool sample (feces) to detect many parasites, including hookworms and roundworms. But if your dog has tapeworms, this test will often be negative. In most cases, the diagnosis is made when you see these segments crawling either on the fresh stool sample or on your dog's rear end.

But what do they look like? Well, bits of tapeworms are most commonly compared to cucumber seeds or grains of rice, just wigglier. When they dry out, the tapeworm segments become hard and yellowish in color (think sesame seeds) and may stick to the hair, fur or even your pillow.

New research from Auburn University shows that tapeworm infections in dogs may be much more widespread than previously recognized. The new testing method indicated that 45 percent of over 1,000 pet dogs tested positive. Earlier studies placed that average at 1 percent prevalence of tapeworms found in dogs.

Most tapeworm infections occur when your dog eats a flea or small mammal that carries an early stage of the worm. They are not directly transmittable to you (unless you eat fleas and small mammals), and most tapeworm species cause minimal health problems, with a few exceptions.

"Since winter has been mild across the country, we can expect to see an increase in parasites, with fleas and wild animals bringing in a variety of problems," states Dr. Heidi Lobprise. "Even when you are providing flea control on your pet, it's difficult to control every pest in the environment, so you need to be aware that diseases such as tapeworms can still be transmitted."

How can you protect your dog? Fortunately, with a little knowledge and one easy step, you can keep heartworms, tapeworms and other worms from rearing their ugly heads. Prescription products available from your local veterinarian like IVERHART MAX(r) (ivermectin/pyrantel pamoate/praziquantel) Chewable Tablets can help. IVERHART MAX Chewable Tablets are a once-monthly preventative that can help treat and control roundworms, hookworms and tapeworms. Contact your local veterinary clinic and you can start protecting your dog today; or to learn more, log on to www.virbacpets.com or www.petsandparasites.org.

The Terry Gallagher Family Wishes to thank all for their precious votes making his victory possible in the 4th Judicial Sub Circuit election

Advertise in our Memorial Day, Flag Day, 4th of July issues for all your Parades, Fireworks, Festivals, or Support our Troops Gatherings, Memorial Events.
Call Linda at **312-624-8996** or Visit our Website at www.villageviewls.weebly.com.

Good Citizenship

Singer Avril Lavigne is helping to raise funds for a campaign that benefits children with disabilities.

Singer Goes Behind The Scenes To Benefit People With Disabilities

NAPSA)-To say thank you to all those who contribute to its fundraising campaign, one grocery retailer offers a sneak peak at some exclusive videos.

Safeway recently launched its annual for Support People with Disabilities fundraising campaign, which benefits Easter Seals and Special Olympics.

This year, as a way to thank the thousands of customers and employees who support the campaign, the store has teamed up with award-winning singer/song- writer and philanthropist Avril Lavigne to bring a new video element and enhanced fundraiser to the effort.

When customers enter any Safeway, Vons, Pavilions, Tom Thumb, Randalls, Dominick's or Carrs store through April, they can look for the "Behind the Scenes with Avril Lavigne" signs near each store's entrance, grab a tear-card from the sign and bring it to the register to make a $5 donation at checkout to support services for children and adults living with disabilities.

Customers who do so will be given a coupon and code to view exclusive videos of the singer on tour, behind the scenes, performing from her dressing room and visiting Easter Seals programs for kids with disabilities.

Because Avril is passionate about sharing a message of inclusion-that young people with disabilities want to laugh, have fun with their friends and just fit in-she worked with Easter Seals to create the Avril Lavigne Rockstar Club at Easter Seals, an initiative to support recreational programming where kids and teens with disabilities can find their "inner rockstar" through social events, music, theater, sports, arts, leisure time, hobbies and camp.

To spread Avril's message of inclusion, here are some helpful hints:

* It's okay to offer your help to someone, but ask first or wait for someone to ask for your help.
* You can ask people about their disabilities, but know they might not want to talk about it.
* Remember, just because people use wheelchairs, it doesn't mean they are sick. Lots of people who use wheelchairs are healthy and strong.
* Never pet or play with guide dogs. They shouldn't be distracted from the job they are doing.
* Treat a person with a disability the way you like to be treated and you'll have a friend for life.

Working with Avril Lavigne and The Avril Lavigne Foundation, the in-store campaign hopes to fund more rockstar clubs and raise greater awareness and funds for children and adults living with autism and other disabilities in communities across the U.S. and Canada.

You can help support Easter Seals and people with disahilities by shopping at your local Safeway store and participating in this special register donation program. You can find more information at theavrillavignefoundation.org. easterseals.com and safewayfoundation.org.

Advocate Hope Children's Hospital will host the 2nd Annual Cycling for Hope

An Adapted Cycling Event on Saturday, May 12,2012 from 10am until 1:30pm at 94th & Keeler Avenue, Oak Lawn.

This FREE event is for family members and persons ages 4-adult with either physical or visual disabilities will learn about adapted cycling options available as well as test drive a variety of bikes including hand cycles and tandem bikes.

Event also features a special appearance by Sheila O'Neil, 1996 Paralympian & bronze medalist in 100m wheelchair track. Space is limited.

To register, call 1-800-3-Advocate, event code: 1P36. This event will be held rain or shine. Sign up today!

Interested in journalism and would like to cover Village Board meetings, contact Annette at 312-624-8996

Mahi-Mahi with Hass Avocado and Grapefruit Salsa can be a fresh and delicious way to get your plate in shape for your good health.

Get Your Plate In Shape For Nutrition

(NAPSA)-For more than 30 years, the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, the world's largest organization of food and nutrition professionals, has sponsored an annual public education and awareness campaign to remind people of the importance of making smart food choices and developing sound eating and physical activity habits. This year's theme, "Get Your Plate in Shape," supports the recommendations of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2010 and MyPlate, and encourages Americans to get back to the basics of healthy eating.

One of the main tips to "Get Your Plate in Shape" is "make half your plate fruits and vegetables." In addition to contributing essential nutrients to our diet, eating a variety of fruits and vegetables is associated with reduced risk of many chronic diseases. Eating fruits and vegetables instead of higher calorie foods is a simple strategy to help manage your weight.

Hass avocados are a versatile and delicious fruit that make it easy to get your plate in shape. Whether eaten alone, as an ingredient in recipes or incorporated into healthy meals, avocados add flavor and a nutrient boost, contributing nearly 20 vitamins, minerals and phytonutrients to your diet, along with a source of "good" fats, both monounsaturated and polyunsaturated.

Try getting your plate in shape with a tasty, healthful and quick meal of Mahi-Mahi with Hass Avocado and Grapefruit Salsa. For more recipe ideas, visit www.AvocadoCentral.com.

Mahi-Mahi with Hass Avocado and Grapefruit Salsa

Serves: 4
Prep Time: 5 minutes
Cook Time: 10 minutes
Total Time: 15 minutes

Ingredients

1 ripe, Fresh Hass Avocado, seeded, peeled and diced
2 tsp. lemon juice
1/2 small red onion, diced
1/2 grapefruit, skin and outer white membrane cut off, diced
1 jalapeno, seeded and minced
Salt and ground black pepper, to taste
4 (5-6 oz.) mahi-mahi filets
1 Tbsp. olive oil
1 lemon, cut into wedges

Instructions

1. Place avocado in a me_dium bowl and sprinkle with lemon juice. Toss gently to coat. Add onion, grapefruit and jalapeno. Season with salt and pepper and toss briefly to combine. Set aside.

2. Rinse filets and pat dry with paper towels. Sprinkle with salt and pepper.

3. Place oil in a large skillet over high heat. Add mahi-mahi filets and let cook without moving until golden brown, about 5 minutes. Turn and cook until just cooked through.

4. To serve, top each filet with an even amount of salsa and garnish with a lemon wedge.

Nutrition Information Per Serving: Calories 260; Total Fat 11 g (Sat 1.5 g, Trans 0 g, Poly 1.5 g, Mono 7 g); Cholesterol 115 mg; Sodium 140 mg; Potassium 890 mg; Total Carbohydrates 10 g; Dietary Fiber 5 g; Total Sugars 3 g; Protein 30 g; Vitamin A 560 IU; Vitamin C 29 mg; Calcium 41 mg; Iron 2 mg; Vitamin D_0 IU; Folate 49 mcg; Omega-3 Fatty Acid 0.3 g.

Note: Large avocados are recommended for this recipe. A large avocado averages about 8 ounces. If using smaller or larger size avocados, adjust the quantity accordingly.

Smart Ways To Save In Your Home And Garden

(NAPSA)-Some ways to save money at home are smarter than others-because they rely on "smart" appliances and devices that are programmed to conserve.

Such devices and appliances make sure energy and resources are not wasted when not needed. Two popular examples are automatic light dimmers that lower the lights when no one is home, and instant water heaters that only fire up when hot water is actually needed.

Every day, more of these appliances become available. To save money on energy, you can now purchase a smart refrigerator that knows when food is spoiled, or a programmable thermostat that heats your home only when needed.

You may also be paying for water you don't actually need. To lower your water bill, consider water-saving toilets and showerheads and don't forget how much water is wasted outside the home. Up to 70 percent of a household's water waste can occur outdoors. The solution can be a smart irrigation system. Such systems include:

* Weather-based irrigation controllers that keep an eye on the weather conditions and adjust timing and watering amounts accordingly;

* Moisture sensors that detect saturation levels in the soil and tell your controller when to water or stop;

* Wireless rain sensors that shut off the sprinklers when it is raining;

* Subsurface drip irrigation systems that deliver water beneath the soil surface.

When combined with smart watering habits, these products can result in water savings of up to 70 percent.

A good example of this type of irrigation system is Rain Bird's revolutionary Simple-to-Set (SST) Smart Controller, which combines an intuitive, user-friendly interface with the automatic self-adjusting, weather-sensing technology found in the professional- grade smart irrigation controllers.

The technology was previously available only through professional landscape contractors but is now available directly to homeowners. Designed to be installed and used by everyday consumers, the new SST Smart Controller ensures that landscapes receive the precise amount of water needed to thrive, reducing the amount of water wasted through overuse and varying weather and temperature patterns.

The controller achieves maximum water efficiency by setting zone-by-zone watering schedules tailored to the landscape's watering needs, and adjusts them based on changing weather conditions. This self-adjusting, weather-sensing technology is housed in a rugged controller and creates daily adjustments in watering schedules so that landscapes receive the right amount of water every time.

For more information, visit www.rainbird.com.

Simply Healthy Simply Mediterranean Simply Delicious

(NAPSA)-Get inspired and get healthy with a Mediterranean diet. It's easy to bring the remarkable health benefits and affordable Mediterranean style of eating to your home every day.

Here are a few simple tips and a delicious Dried Fig and Black Olive Spread recipe to start you on your journey to good taste and good health:

* Eat mainly plant-based foods, such as fruits and vegetables, whole grains, beans, nuts and seeds.

* Use healthy fats, such as extra virgin olive oil, which is naturally trans fat free, instead of butter.

*Choose herbs and spices to flavor foods instead of salt.

* Eat fish, poultry and dairy products in low to moderate amounts, and limit red meat.

Dried Fig and Black Olive Spread by Marie Simmons, James Beard Award winning cookbook author

8 oz. Blue Ribbon Orchard Choice or Sun-Maid Figs, stems trimmed, quartered
1 cup pitted Kalamata olives
1 1/2 teaspoons fennel seeds
1 teaspoon minced garlic
1/4 teaspoon grated orange zest
1/8 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
1/4 cup California Olive Ranch Extra Virgin Olive Oil
Crostini, for serving
2 to 4 ounces crumbled feta or blue cheese, optional

1. Combine the figs and 1 cup water in a small saucepan. Heat to a boil. Cook, covered, over low heat until almost all of the liquid has been ab_sorbed, about 20 minutes. Cool slightly.

2. Combine the figs, olives, fennel seeds (crushed with a mortar and pestle or the side of a heavy knife), garlic, orange zest and black pepper in a food processor. Process until pureed, stopping to scrape the sides of the container down once or twice. With the motor running, slowly add the extra virgin olive oil. Transfer the mixture to a container or bowl, cover, and refrigerate until ready to serve.

3. To serve, place the spread in a small bowl with a butter knife and surround it with crostini. Alternatively, spread it on the crostini and serve plain or with a little crumbled cheese on top. Makes 2 cups.

Celebrate all that's Mediterranean throughout the year with dried figs and fresh extra virgin olive oil from sunny California.

* Extra virgin olive oil contains polyphenols that act as health-promoting antioxidants. It's perfect for cooking, frying, sauteing, dressing and baking.

* For freshness, look for the most current harvest date on the bottle label. Always store in a cool, dark cupboard away from heat or light to maintain freshness longer.

* Dried figs offer a rich source of fiber in every sweet, chewy, crunchy bite.

* Dark purple Mission and golden Calimyrna figs can be used interchangeably in recipes and make great on-the-go snacks.

Free Recipes

You can find more great recipes and tips for California Dried Figs, California Olive Ranch Extra Virgin Olive Oil and the Mediterranean Diet at www.valleyfig.com, www.californiaoliveranch.com, on Facebook and Twitter and at www.oldwayspt.org.

Dried figs and black olives combine beautifully atop crusty bread for this Mediterranean-inspired appetizer.

Message to our Restaurant Customers!

Send us your favorite recipe and picture and we will put it in our newspapers and website!

Village of Orland Park to Host Student Government Day 2012

Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grade Residents Invited to Write Essays

ORLAND PARK, IL–The Village of Orland Park invites village residents in sixth, seventh and eighth grades to participate in its "Student Government Day 2012." Youngsters who live in the village — regardless of where they attend school — are invited to write essays describing what they like best about the Village of Orland Park.

"On May 31, 2012, the Village of Orland Park will mark 120 years as a municipality in the State of Illinois," said Mayor Dan McLaughlin. "Having the future leaders of our community be a part of local government is a great way to celebrate this milestone," the mayor added.

Co-chaired by McLaughlin and Trustee Jim Dodge, chair of the village's Technology, Communications and Community Engagement Committee, the mock committee and village board meetings with students in charge will be held May 21, 2012.

"It's been a while since the village held its last Student Government Day and we're happy to bring it back in time for the village's 120th birthday," McLaughlin said. "This is always a fun evening for the adults and for the kids. The kids see how local government works and the adults get to see how very bright our young people are," he added.

Participants are invited to write a 100-150 word essay describing what they like best about one of eight village related topics, including community planning, local government, police, public services, recreation programs, special events, village facilities and village history.

"A lot of Orland Park 's young people have visited the Village Hall on school field trips or to meet their scout requirements so many of them already understand local government," McLaughlin said.

"Having the kids run the show is always a good time and it gives them a firsthand perspective," Dodge said. "When I was first elected village clerk, I did a number of mock board meetings with different scout groups and the kids always had fun," he added.

Essays will be scored by an impartial panel of judges and those having the best grasp of the chosen subject matter will be selected to serve as either an elected official or department director on May 21. Winning students must be available on May 21 from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Only one entry per student will be accepted and all entries are due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 11, 2012.

"We're hoping to get a good cross-section of the community for this event, with kids from all different schools, public, private and home schooled." the mayor said.

Entries must include the student's full name, home address, home phone, village subdivision, name of school, grade level and parent's email address. Essays may be emailed to publicinfooffice@orland-park.il.us and delivery of the essay will be confirmed with a response email. Hard copies may be delivered to the village's Office of Public Information in the Village Hall prior to the deadline.

Information sheets appear on the village's website at www.orland-park.il.us and questions may be directed to the village's Office of Public Information at 708/403-6150.

City of Oak Forest e-Briefs

City of Oak Forest approves 2012-2013 budget

On April 24, the Oak Forest City Council approved the fiscal year 2012-2013 budget, which describes the city's revenue and expenditures for the twelve months beginning May 1, 2012.

NuWay Disposal dispatches "green" garbage trucks

In an effort to be more environmentally responsible, Nuway/Tinley Park Disposal has replaced 20 of its trucks with those that run on natural gas.

Join the City of Oak Forest and the Oak View Girl Scouts in celebrating Arbor Day

In celebration of Arbor Day and as part of the Girl Scout Forever. Green program, the City of Oak Forest and the Oak View Girl Scouts will plant a Colorado Blue Spruce near the City Hall gazebo today at 4:30 p.m.

Next electrical aggregation public hearing is May 8

The City of Oak Forest will hold another hearing on Tuesday, May 8 at 7 p.m. to obtain input from the public on the proposed Electric Residential Aggregation Plan for residents and small commercial retail customers. The meetings will be held at City Hall in the Council Chambers.

Goodwill will participate in citywide garage sale

A Goodwill trailer will be parked at the corner of 159th and Cicero Avenue from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 19 to collect donations from the community after the citywide garage sale. Have you registered to be a part of the garage sale?

Question of the Week

When does branch pickup start?

Public Works offers a monthly branch pickup service to residents to help encourage pruning and trimming on private property. Branches will be picked up by Public Works staff by appointment only on the last Tuesday of every month from April through November. To schedule a pickup, please call 708-535-4090. Please click here for additional information about monthly branch pickup.

To submit a question for consideration, please send an e-mail to cmaher@oak-forest.org and type Question of the Week in the subject line.

ANNUAL VILLAGE OF MIDLOTHIAN MARS DAY SALE

The Village of Midlothian's Annual Reuse Sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 5, 2012, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This is a Village-wide garage sale where anyone and everyone can participate in a sale on this day. Residents can register their address at Village Hall or on the Village's website (www.villageofmidlothian.net) to be included on an inclusive MARS Day map.

The map will be posted on the Village's website, and copies will be available at Village Hall the week before the event. One person's junk may be another person's treasure, and this annual sale draws bargain hunters from all over the area.

For further information, please contact Village Hall at 708-389-0200.

Oak Lawn Garden Contest open to all residents

Oak Lawn Garden Contest is open to all residents of Oak Lawn and is held during the month of May.

Perennial Plant Sale, is Saturday, May 19th, at the Gazebo in Centennial Park, 94th and Nashville.

The Annual Garden Walk is Sunday, June 24th, For more information go to www.oaklawngardenclub.org

25th annual mother daughter luncheon

The Oak Lawn Community Church, 9000 S. Ridgeland Avenue, Oak Lawn is having their 25th Annual Mother/Daughter Luncheon, Saturday, May 12, 2012 from 12:00 to 4:00pm.

The Theme this year is Butterflies/Gardening. There will be a small gift for all participants, prizes, Guest Speaker W/ Gardening tips. Cost: Adults $7.00, Children 4 - 12yrs. $3.50,

Children 4yrs. and under Free. For more information please call The Church office at 708-599-4025

The Village of Oak Lawn Green Team announces 2012 Design a Green Scene Winners

1st Place Winner: ONON SIMONSON 6th Grade, Oak Lawn Hometown Middle School "We have bin waiting for you!" Prize: $100.00, the official message for the Green Team for 2012 & a t-shirt with his original design.

2nd Place Winner: JENNA JAKUBOWSKI 6th Grade, St. Linus School "The earth is like a plant...Keep it growing!" Prize: $50.00

3rd Place Winner: HEATHER BABIAR 8th Grade, St. Linus School "REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE... VILLAGE OF OAK LAWN WE RECYCLE!" Prize: $25.00

"Design a Green Scene" T-Shirt Contest is a contest offered to all 6th through 12th graders who attend public or private grammar schools, middle schools, high schools and specialty schools throughout the Village of Oak Lawn.

We received a total of 98 entries. The entries were submitted by students from Oak Lawn Hometown Middle School , Pride Alternative School , St. Louis De Monfort School, St. Gerald School, St. Catherine of Alexandria School, and St. Linus School. The artistic talents of all the entries were outstanding and very clever.

The students creativity is clearly a credit to the student's natural artistic, their parents and the outstanding schools they attend within the Village of Oak Lawn.

The winning design will be the official design of the Village of Oak Lawn Green Team t-shirts for 2012.

The t-shirts will be distributed at all the Green Team and Special Events throughout the Village of Oak Lawn.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Village of Oak Lawn Green Team, need community service hours or are interested in learning more about how you can help our village become greener, please contact the following people or visit our website at www.oaklawn-il.gov for more information.

Alex Olejniczak Steve Barrett Trustee of District 2 Director of Public Works Committee Chairman Green Team Member Green Team Member (708) 499-7749 (708) 346-7002 sbarrett@oaklawn-il.gov aolejniczak@oaklawn-il.gov Gerry Chickerillo Heather Green Street Division Manager Village Forester Green Team Member Green Team Member (708) 499-7067 (708) 499-7098 gchickerillo@oaklawn-il.gov hgreen@oaklawn-il.gov Carmie O'Leary Administrative Secretary to the Mayor /Board of Trustees Green Team Member (708) 499-7742 coleary@oaklawn-il.gov "Think Green, Live Green"

Advertise in our Memorial Day, Flag Day, 4th of July issues, for all your Parades, Fireworks, Festivals, or Support our Troops, Memorial Events, call Linda at 312-624-8996 or Visit our Website at www.villageviewls.weebly.com.

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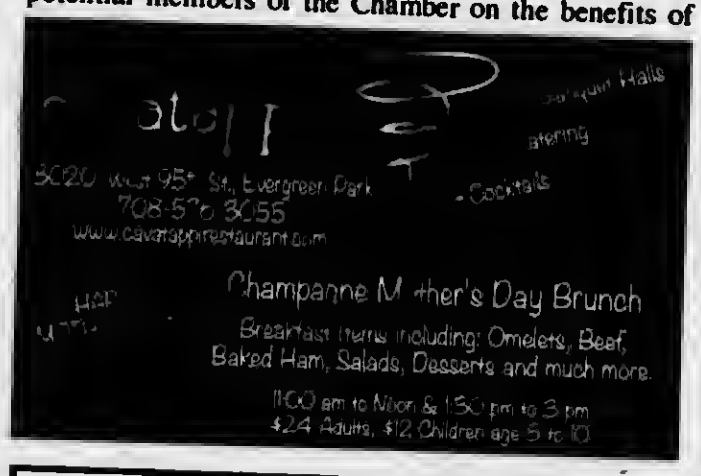
Students whip up culinary delights for Chamber Members

Members and potential members of the Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce will be treated to breakfast prepared by the Culinary Arts Students from Carl Sandburg High School.

The students will be preparing and serving their culinary creations at the Chamber's Member Orientation held at Carl Sandburg High School on Tuesday, May 8 from 7:45 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. There is no cost for this orientation.

The Member Orientation is held to educate current and potential members of the Chamber on the benefits of membership. Those who are interested in obtaining more information on membership are encouraged to attend.



The students are enrolled in the Advanced Culinary Arts Class at Carl Sandburg High School which is part of the School District 230's S4 initiative (Successful Schools Successful Students).

The initiative is designed to encourage the relationship between what is learned in class and what is necessary for careers and jobs in the future. Curriculum and assessments are designed to be authentic, real world experiences.

Members and potential members of the Orland Park Area Chamber are welcome to attend. Parkway Bank & Trust Company representative Lynn Cialdella was instrumental in forging this partnership between the Culinary students and the Chamber. The Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce is a not-for-profit organization that serves as the primary resource for business and the community in Orland Park and the surrounding suburbs.

For more information on becoming a member of the Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce or to RSVP for this event, please call (708) 349-2972 or visit the chamber website at www.orlandparkchamber.or

by Wehmeier Portraits

Carl Sandburg High School Culinary Arts Students smile for the camera during the Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce Member Orientation held in 2011 at Parkway Bank & Trust Company in Orland Park. The students prepared the morning meal for the Chamber members as a class project. The class of 2012 will prepare the food for the Chamber's Member Orientation to be held at Carl Sandburg High School on Tuesday, May 8 from 7:45 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Carl Sandburg High School is located at 13300 S. LaGrange Road

Sundaes for Preschooler and Dad

Trinity Lutheran Preschool, 9701 S. Brandt Ave. Oak Lawn, announces their Dad's Night, on Friday, May 11th at 6:30 p.m. The children and their dads will be having fun with projects and ice cream sundaes.

The preschool is proud to announce the expansion of their hours for the 2012-2013 school year. For more information, or to set up an appointment to view the school, please call Cathy Cepican, Director at 708-422-0193.

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Maria High School seniors recognized with Vicariate V Youth Leadership Awards

Maria High School proudly announces that six seniors recently received awards at the annual Vicariate V Youth Leadership Awards Banquet at the Lexington House. Vivian Acevedo of Wrightwood, Guadalupe Avila of West Lawn, Brianna Burks of Chicago Lawn, Cyncidia Davis of Hyde Park, Verinea Lankus of Bridgeport and Joselyn Uribe of Chicago Lawn were recognized by Vicariate V and Bishop Andrew Wypych for their leadership in Peer Ministry, Advocacy, and Prayer and Worship.

The leadership of Guadalupe Avila was also recognized by her parish, St. Mary, Star of the Sea. Of the many essays submitted addressing how faith has impacted their lives and how their ministry has helpcd develop and identify their gifts/talents/ abilities, Vivian Acevedo's was one of the three that was chosen to be rcad aloud.

The youth leadership awardees of Maria were accompanied at the banquet by Mrs. Judy Bumbul, Campus Minister, Mrs. Wendy Lynn, President and Ms. Margaret M Hayes, Principal.

For information about Maria High School, please contact Fran Tenbroeck at 773-925-8686, ext. 186, or www.mariahighschool.org.

SXU Mock Trial team participates in its first American Mock Trial Association regional tournament

SXU to offer new Mock Trial course as part of Pre-Law Program for Fall 2012

Saint Xavier University's first Mock Trial Team recently competed in its inaugural regional tournament through the American Mock Trial Association (AMTA), as part of the University's launch of its new Pre-Law program. SXU will offer a three-credit hour course, POLSC 260: Mock Trial I, during the Fall, 2012 semester.

"This pre-law initiative is unlike anything SXU has ever donc before," said SXU President Christine Wiscman, J.D. "We are so appreciative of our volunteer coaches and judges who took time out of their busy schedules to help SXU students hone their skills in the courtroom."

The team held a dress rehearsal dress rehearsal for a murder/DUI case in early February on campus to prepare for the tournament. The mock trial gave students on the team an opportunity to play the role of defense attorney and prosecutor as well as witnesses in the trial. All the students did an excellent job representing SXU at this year's regional tournament, and the competition's judges were shocked to learn this was SXU's first team competition! The students on the team also received compliments on how well they conducted themselves both in and out of the courtroom.

More than 190 universities throughout the country take part in the American Mock Trial Association's tournaments. Patrick J. Enright, an attorney at O'Rourke, Hogan, Fowler & Dwyer, and Dan Maloney, Assistant State's Attorney for the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, are the team's coaches. Thrcc judgcs graciously agreed to volunteer their time during the mock trial on campus: Thc Hon. Brian Flaherty, a fclony courtroom judge in the Cook County Circuit Court's Sixth Municipal District. He is a former Assistant Public Defender for the Cook County Public Defender's Office and a former attorney for the Cook County Sheriff's Department; The Hon. Kathy Panozzo, a misdemeanor criminal courtroom judge in the Cook County Circuit Court's Sixth Municipal District and a former Cook County Assistant State's Attorney in the Gang Crimes Unit; and Federal Bureau of Investigation Agent Mike Brown.

"These mock trials are great opportunities for young students to learn the federal rules of evidence, how to submit evidence as well as to understand the various roles and responsibilities of trial lawyers," Enright said. "It's great to see the dedication of the SXU students."

For more information, please contact Pre-Law Program Director Prof. Nan-Nan Lee at prelaw@sxu.edu or visit www.sxu.edu, keyword: prelaw.

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Run or walk the annual spring 5K at Moraine Valley

Join other walkers and runners for the "Spring in Your Step" 5K at Moraine Valley Community College on Saturday, May 5. Check-in starts at 8:30 a.m., and the race begins at 9:15 a.m. by the tennis courts on campus, 9000 W. College Pkwy., Palos Hills. The race will take participants twice around the walking path encircling the campus or, weather permitting, on the cross country course through Moraine Valley's nature preserve. Participation in the 5K, or 3.1-mile jaunt, is free and open to the community, ages 16 and older. Refreshments will be provided following the event, and prizes will be awarded to the top male and female finishers of both the run and walk. The event is sponsored by Moraine Valley's Health Fitness Center. Registration forms can be picked up and dropped off in the Fitness Center in Building G. Participants also can register the day of. For more information, call (708) 974-5701.

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Please join us in celebrating 25 years of service on Sunday, June 3, 2012

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Dinner Ticket Donation: $50 must be purchased in advance no later than May 21, 2012
Raffle Tickets: $50 (1st Prize: $3,000, 2nd Prize: $1,500, 3rd Prize: $750)
(To purchase dinner or raffle tickets, please call 708-385-3228)
http://guildhaus.org/25th

Guildhaus is a not-for-profit men's halfway house founded by Jack King. Jack was a retired Chicago Fireman who had a vision of providing long term support to men who were struggling to recover from drug and alcohol addiction. He was able to see his vision become a reality when he opened the doors of Guildhaus on December 31, 1987.

It is Guildhaus' mission to deliver conscientious, compassionate support to Guildhaus men establishing a solid recovery foundation, providing assistance in their transition to a drug- and alcohol- free lifestyle. Our ultimate goal is to see these men return home and rebuild relationships with their families and communities.

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The Joffrey Ballet presents Spring Desire with Fabrice Calmels and Victoria Jaiani, In The Night. There are three separate sections of music and dance, Age of Innocence with the entire cast of dancers. After intermission three couples dance to In the Night. Ater another intermission the spectacular group of young people who appear are Joanna Wozniak and Matthew Adamczyk, Amber Neumann and Rory Hohenstein, Yumelia Garcia and John Mark Giragosian, Christine Rocas and Lucas Segovia, and Caitlin Meighan and Ogulcan Borova. They will appear until May 6, 2012. Tickets can be obtained through the box office at Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University or Joffrey.org.

Fish Men

Have you ever seen what happens on the corners of Chicago or Central Park? The high stake game of chess is the hustlers game for making money, or it is?

Could it be a challege of intelligence, hustling, or male egos, you be the judge.This play will not only entertain you but give the street verison of hustling.

Candido Tirado's new comedic drama about a group of urban chess hustlers drawn together by a share need to overcome their individual demons. Edward Torres, Artistic Director of Teatro Vista, makes his Goodman directorial debut with this second play of a three year professional Latino teater company.

The cast of eight fantastic actors kept the audience spellbound. Do you have to like chess in order to enjoy the play, maybe but for as low as $12 for ticket prices, you can't go wrong.

Goodman Theatre is really presenting the best of entertainment for the best prices. Fish Men may have been extended if not I would have hope so. It was scheduled to close May 6 so get on the interenet or call 312-443-3800, if you are chess play, this is definitely for you.

Court Theater now has the Tony award winning play part one and two

Court Theatre Artistic Director Charles Newell and Executive Director Stephen J. Albert present Tony Kushner's Tony Award-winning Angels in America, Part One: Millennium Approaches and Part Two: Perestroika, directed by Artistic Director Charles Newell. Angels in America will run until June 3, 2012 at Court Theatre, 5535 S. Ellis. The year is 1985: Ronald Reagan has just been reelected to a second term, and the deadly AIDS epidemic.

Tony Kushner's two-part epic historical drama captures the lives of the HIV-positive Prior; Louis, his lover who abandons him; Joe, a closeted gay Mormon; his Valium-addicted wife Harper; Roy Cohn, a notorious lawyer from the McCarthy hearings, dying of AIDS; Belize, his African-American nurse; Hannah, Joe's mother from Utah; and the Angel, a terrifyingly beautiful herald of the apocalypse.

As these characters discover, confront, and seduce each other during a time of death, hypocrisy, and tumultuous change, Kushner summons a restless pastiche of the historical and the supernatural, the theological and the political, all told with surging theatricality by a company of eight actors.

For tickets call Court Theatre, 5535 S. Ellis Ave. Prices are $35 to $65, 773.753.4472 or email Court at www.CourtTheatre.org

Title of the Show at Northlight in Skokie

Starting May 14, Northlight at 9500 Skokie Blvd. presents Title of the Show. When two young writers decide to create a new musical in just three weeks, the result is [title of show], an original musical that chronicles its own (mostly true) journey from inception to opening night on Broadway. Friends find their way through creative differences and commercial success in this meta-musical comedy laced with wit, pop culture and infectious enthusiasm.

Goodman Theater presents Eugene O'Neils The Iceman Cometh

The Iceman Cometh at Goodman Theatre in 1990 marked Robert Falls' and Brian Dennehy's first of seven subsequent O'Neill collaborations.

Robert Falls can't go wrong with Nathan Lane and Brian Dennehy appearing in The Iceman Cometh in the Albert Theatre at Goodman Theatre. This production is running until June 17 and some dates are sold out. Buy tickets early.

As for the dancers taking their final bows as dancers with Inaside: they were Anne Gollenberg and Noel Powers.

Inaside Chicago Dance, 5965 N. Clark, Chicago is worth seeing. Check their website www.inaside.org for future dance performances. The show is dedicated to Anne Gollenberg founding company member after nine years she is retiring from the stage, stated Richard A. Smith, Artistic Director.Both Gollenberg and Noel Powers will continue to be with Inaside in other capacities, Gollenberg will continue to serve as Associate Artistic Director; Powers, who is co-owner of Rise Dance Center in Schaumburg will continue in a teaching capacity.

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Wine Picks For Romantic Dates At Home

by Richard Vayda

(NAPSA)-Busy couples don't have to let hectic schedules and budget concerns interfere with a great date night. Dinner at home can transform into a romantic evening by elevating a delicious meal with the right wine pairings. To help you bring a slice of romance to your next dinner date, consider these simple dishes and wine pairings:

Appetizers

Traditional Melon and Prosciutto-ripe pieces of melon wrapped in thinly sliced prosciutto go well with a fresh and fruity Prosecco-a perfect start to a meal. A frizzante brut style has elements of white peach that highlight the melon fruit, and hints of sweetness countering the prosciutto's salt.

Pizza and wine set the stage for a romantic night at home.

Traditional Caesar Salad- with garlic croutons can be paired with a Beaujolais. Salads are typically difficult to pair with wines because of the acidic dressings, and Caesar salads additionally need a wine that goes with multiple, complex flavors while still matching the freshness of the greens. Beaujolais, with its bright acidity, light tannins and young fruit tinge, does a nice job. If white wine is preferred, try a crisp, full Sauvignon Blanc.

Entrées

Restaurant-quality fresh-from-the-freezer pizza makes a romantic date night a snap. Italy's top-selling frozen pizza, Ristorante by Dr. Oetker is available in the U.S., and includes delicious varieties, such as:

Pizza Mozzarella-combines mozzarella cheese with tomatoes, Edam cheese and a delightful mixture of herbs. The cherry-plum flavor of a Chianti Classico has food-friendly acidity and tannins, which love cheese, tomato and herb pizzas. For an extra treat, try a Chianti Classico Riserva or a sparkling red Lambrusco, for vibrant, young berry fruit along with the fizz.

Pizza Spinaci-layered with savory leaf spinach, Edam and mozzarella cheese, with a hearty garlic sauce, this goes well with a Côtes du Rhone Rouge. It has a good balance of red plum fruits, tannin and spice but doesn't overwhelm.

Dessert

Mixed Berries-with vanilla whipped cream go splendidly with Moscato d'Asti. This light sparkling wine packs a lot of fresh apricot flavor, excellent both to end a meal and to marry with a fruit dessert. Look for current vintages for the freshest fruit flavors. For more sparkle, try a traditional Asti (formerly Asti Spumante).

Learn More

You can find more advice, recipes and information about quality pizza at www.oetker.us.

• Mr. Vayda is Director of Wine & Beverage Studies at the Institute of Culinary Education in New York City, and a restaurant consultant.

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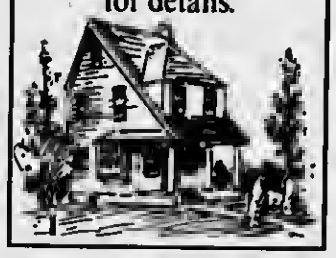

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New Dining Experience at Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar

Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar has introduced the new dining experience, Small Plates, Big Pours; a special that features a pairing of seven original Flemings' Small Plates with seven oversized, Big Pour selections from the Fleming's 100 ® wine menu for only $24.95. Diners can choose from an option of upscale bites including Sliced Filet Mignon, Shrimp Scampi, Skewers, Petite Lamb Chops, Seared Ahi Tuna, New Bedford Scallops, Fillet Mignon Skewers or Lobster Tempura. Accompanying wine options include a Penley Gryphon Merlot (Australia), a Paco& Lola Albariño (Spain), a Cline Cashmere Red Blend (California), a A to Z Wineworks Pinot Noir (Oregon), a Cakebread Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley), a B.R. Cohn Silver Cabernet (Napa Valley) and a Silverado Chardonnay (Napa Valley).

The Small Plates, Big Pours special runs through May 31 in the Fleming's bar area at both the Chicago (25 E Ohio, 312-329-9463) and Lincolnshire (960 Milwaukee Ave, 847-793-0333) locations.

Bakersfield Will Open May 1 in Westmont

WESTMONT, Ill. — BAKERSFIELD, 330 East Ogden Avenue, a 7,500 square foot casual, yet sophisticated new restaurant is scheduled to open May 1, 2012. The elegant space will seat 175 inside, 48 on the patio and 23 at the bar. Brian Wright will serve as Executive Chef.

BAKERSFIELD will showcase steaks butchered in-house and prepared on a wood-fired grill. Signature entrees include a Barrel-Cut Filet paired with Wilted Spinach and Red Bliss Smashed Potatoes, the 72-Hour Marinated Cajun Ribeye accompanied by a Loaded Baked Potato, the Five-Spice-Rubbed Rotisserie Chicken served with Wild Rice Salad, and Stuffed Gnocchi and Meatballs. Additionally, seasonal whole fish will be flown in from around the world to be hand-filleted.

Appetizers include Crispy Thai Shrimp, Smoked Salmon, and Crispy Rice Sushi. Hearty entrée-style salads such as the Crab Cake Salad and the Four Farmers Grilled Chicken Salad, and sandwiches like the Lobster Knuckle Sandwich and Mustard-Honey Chicken Sandwich, will satisfy for both lunch and dinner. Sumptuous house made desserts include Fried Oreos and Tres Leches.

Whether guests choose to relax on the fully furnished patio featuring a fireplace, fire pit, and communal table; watch the action from the bar-height Chef's Table looking into the open kitchen; dine in the main area featuring a floor-to-ceiling glass-enclosed wine room; or enjoy hand-crafted cocktails at the well appointed bar, BAKERSFIELD creates an inviting atmosphere.

BAKERSFIELD provides exceptional food and service and is an ideal restaurant for business lunches, catching up with friends, or dining as a family. Hours are Sundays through Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. For reservations, call 630.568.3615 or visit www.bakersfieldrestaurant.com.

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SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 38 | Number 22 | May 15, 2012

Burbank, Evergreen Park, Hickory Hills, Justice, Oak Lawn

Hickory Hills Alderman censures gaming

by Jan Glaz

After weeks of discussion concerning Video Gaming in Hickory Hills the Board of Trustees made a decision to approve and amend an ordinance governing gaming on May 10th. The ordinance addresses adding fees for video gaming, based on other communities, a fee of $100.00 was suggested. Prior to passing the ordinance Alderman Szeszycki voiced an opinion to opt out, "Personally I don't like this; to me it's just another way to separate a fool from his money."

On the field Electrical Aggregation the city approved a contract that allows them to move forward as soon as possible with a program to save the residents and businesses money on their electricity bill. Two public hearings will be scheduled in the near future to supply the public with further information. ComEd rates are now 7.5% and will be 8.5% in June. Other communities who have finished the program and signed a contract with a supplier are paying an average of 4.8% to 5.2%. Hickory Hills is looking at around mid-June or July to finalize the Electrical Aggregation program.

Women's Health: Alderman Tom McAvoy presented a tribute from the City of Hickory Hills to Marcella Vrotney owner and manager of Curves and announced that the United States Office of Women's Health has designated the week of May 13th to May 19th as National Women's Health Week to increase awareness of women's health issues nationwide. Curves international Inc., one of the nation's premier fitness centers, in partnership with the United States Office of Women's Health chose the week in conjunction with Mother's Day.

Marcella Vrotney opened Curves seven years ago in the Hill Creek Shopping Center at 8725 W. 95th Street and has continually promoted women's health and fitness. Before the meeting adjourned, the Mayor and the City of Hickory Hills proclaimed the day of May 17th as National Curves Day and presented a certificate of recognition to Marcella for her efforts in the community. To celebrate National Women's Health Week Marcella is offering a 30 days Free Membership to all who stop by. Curves phone number is 708-599-5102.

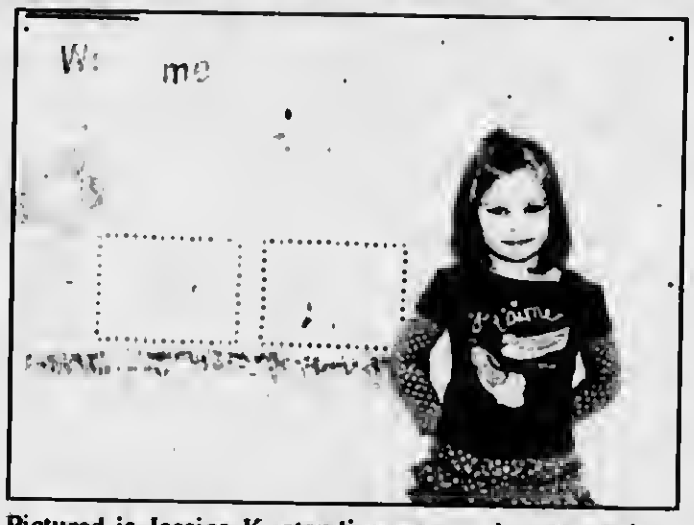
Oak Lawn Garden Club Plant Sale

On Saturday, May 19th, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Centennial Park Gazebo, 9400 S. Nashville in Oak Lawn, there is an Oak Lawn Garden Club Sale.

There will be many fine perennials from members gardens to be be sold at reasonable prices also included will be some annuals, grasses, herbs, vegetables and containers all priced reasonably.

This would be a great way to give your garden a lift for the summer.

For more information www.oaklawngardenclub.org



Pictured is Jessica K. standing next to her art project. Jessica will be starting Preschool in the fall. If you would like to have your child join our School Family, please call the school office at 708-424-7757 for information or to schedule a tour. A Full Day Preschool Program is available for both 3 year olds and 4 year olds.

St. Albert announces full day program for preschool

Recently, St. Albert the Great Catholic School invited all 3,4, & 5 year olds of the Parish to visit one of their Open Houses. The children were mailed a picture to color and bring with them on their visit. We also welcome all families who do not have a school at their parish to send their children to us. St. Albert the Great is the only Catholic grammar school in Burbank and is located at 5535 West State Road (80th & Central).

Evergreen Park Library announces there program

Learn How to Download eBooks

Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 S. Troy, will host "Learn How to Download eBooks" on Thursday, May 17 at 6:30 pm. Chris Raap, Evergreen Park Public Library Head of Reference will provide a demonstration, as well as answer any specific questions. Participants are asked to bring their digital device. Please register: (708) 422-8522.

Sharpie Design Shirts

On Thursday, May 17 at 4:00 pm, teens, grades 6-12 are invited to the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 S. Troy to make a create a t-shirt using Sharpie marker designs. Participants are asked to bring a prewashed white cotton t-shirt. All materials will be provided. Please register. For more information, call (708) 422-8522.

Scrabble Game Night!

On Thursday, May 17 at 6:30 pm at the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 South Troy, players of all ages and abilities are invited to play against each other for fun in an evening of quiet, friendly competition. We'll supply the Scrabble boards. For more information, call (708) 422-8522.

Weekend Quilters at the Evergreen Park Public Library!

Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 S. Troy hosts the monthly meeting of "Weekend Quilters" on Saturday, May 19 from 1:00 until 3:00 pm. Instructor Penny Nichols will share her knowledge of quilt design and construction. Whether you are a beginner or seasoned veteran quilter, you can enjoy learning how to make various different and ongoing traditional and art quilt projects.

You do not need to bring a sewing machine to these sessions. Information: (708) 422-8522.

Art Exhibition Opening Receptions at the EP Library!

The Worth Township Advanced Oil Painting Class will be exhibiting their work at the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 S. Troy. A reception introducing the art work will be held on Sunday, May 20th from 1:00 to 3:00 pm in the library.

The paintings will continue to be on display until Friday, June 29th. For more information, call (708) 422-8522.

Sunday Lego Club at the Evergreen Park Public Library

Lego Club for children in kindergarten through fifth grade will meet on Sunday, May 20 at 2:00 pm at the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 South Troy. For more information, call (708) 422-8522.

Experiments with Goo

Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 S. Troy will host Experiments with Goo on Tuesday, May 22 at 4:00 pm. Teens, grades 6-12, are invited will concocting different kinds of goo!

Particpants will get messy and asked to dress appropriately. Registration required. Information: (708) 422-8522.

"The Help" Movie Presentation

Adults are invited to watch "War Horse" [PG-13] on our big screen on Thursday, May 24 at 10:30 am. Bring your own snack; coffee is provided. Please register: (708) 422-8522.

My First Book Club

Children, ages 6-8 years, are invited to a meeting of My First Book Club on Friday, May 25 at 3:30 pm at the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 S. Troy. Participants will read : Mercy Watson to the Rescue by Kate DiCamillo from the library's Beginning Reader Collection.

The book club meeting includes a discussion of the book, activities, and other stories. Copies of the book selection will be available at the Circulation desk one month prior to the discussion.

Registration required. Information: (708) 422-8522.

Kindred Spirits Book Discussion

On Wednesday, May 30 at 7:00 pm at the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 S. Troy, adults are invited to the Kindred Spirits book discussion of In the Garden of Beasts by Eric Larson.

Copies of the book, including large print when available, can be checked out at the circulation desk one month prior to the discussion.

For information, call or stop by the library, or visit evergreenparklibrary.org.

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FAR SOUTH EDITION

Volume 10 | Number 10 | May 15, 2012

Oak Forest, Orland Park, Tinley Park

Oak Forest Tweeks Electrical Aggregation

by Jan Glaz

A referendum passed on March 20, 2012 giving permission to Oak Forest to locate a lower priced electricity supplier. ComEd will remain in charge of maintenance and the billing of electricity under the aggregation plan. Bidding for power is scheduled to begin on May 10th. Based on a survey of other municipalities embracing aggregation the average savings for residents and small businesses is reported to be around $300 per year.

On May 8th, at the City of Oak Forest Council Meeting, it was announced that a decision had to be made regarding the ordinance authorizing aggregation of electrical load and adopting an electrical aggregation plan for the operation and governance of aggregation. Before the 5-2 vote carried, the City Council appointed Public Works Director Troy Ishler to the position of City Administrator. As City Administrator, Troy is authorized to accept bids for an electrical supplier, including purchasing clean energy credits. Energy deemed clean, such as solar and wind power, costs more. This type of energy reduces the amount of pollutants in the air and the amount of dollars saved by residents who opt into the aggregation program. The reduction in savings is an automatic $10.00 per resident, per year.

Alderman Simon cast a nay vote but assured everyone that he was for clean energy and that he supported it. "We are actually forcing people to make a decision to monetarily support clean energy when it should be their choice not ours," said Simon. "We are taking money out of their pocket and not giving them a choice." He also stressed the fact that everyone has an opportunity to opt out of this program.

An agreement met with approval before the meeting adjourned pertaining to the Oak Forest Park District property located north of 151st Street at Long Avenue (extended) for use as a Community Garden. The Park District agreed to supervise the garden by rules and regulations given to participants clearly stating what is and what is not allowed. Parking was a concern last year, and this year the school district offered parking. Oak Forest Public Works agreed to not use the fire hydrant water, instead they will put a vault in, tap a main and install a meter Park District use. The Park District will pay the wholesale cost of the water to the city once a year.

Orland Park residents love Orland Park

by Jan Glaz

According to a scientific nationwide survey stemming from Bolder Colorado it was announced at the Board of Trustees Meeting held on May 7th that 91% of Orland Park residents recommended living in Orland Park, and 90% would remain in Orland Park for the next five years. The survey was compiled against a benchmark of income levels.

Great Rate: The City Council agreed to accept a contract with Nordic Energy Services, located in Oak Brook Illinois, the contract is for a period of two years. Nordic will be the supplier of energy to residents ,and small business owners partaking in Orland Park's electrical aggregation program. Over the years major businesses have purchased electricity from alternative sources, but now, with the deregulation of electrical energy, the average homeowner and small business owner have the same opportunity to secure reduced rates from alternative sources

The savings from Nordic compiles to around $300 per year, an up to 43% savings, on the energy portion of the electric bill. First Energy Corporation located in Ohio challenged Nordic's rate and tied the council vote 3 to 3. Mayor McLaughlin broke the tie in favor of Nordic Energy, in part because Nordic stems from the State of Illinois. The village electrical aggregation consultant, David Hoover, founder and executive of the Northern Illinois Municipal Electric Collaborative (NIMEC) is the broker authorized to secure power from alternative suppliers at reduced rates. Hoover stated, "Just this afternoon, we learned the new ComEd rate will increase as of June 1 from 7.73 to 8.5 cents per kilowatt hour. Village residents, as a whole, should save about $9 million dollars through this program. That's money that will remain in Orland Park."

Vehicle News: The purchase of a Ford F550 Cab-Chassis equipped with a Service Body and Crane used by the Utility Division for maintenance of sanitary lift stations, pumping stations and other infrastructure needs met with approval before the meeting adjourned. The 2012 Fiscal Year Budget approved a line item in the amount of $100,000 for the vehicle. The truck is replacing a 1997 cab chassis with 82,623 miles. Standard Equipment Company of Chicago was the lowest bidder. Their price for the Ford F550 with Service Body and Crane is $102,842 .00. The city council also awarded the bid for the purchase of three (3) Ford Focus Four-Door Sedans from Roesch Ford of Bensenville, Illinois for an amount not to exceed $42,885.

Dirk Van Groningen (lower left), 14, of Palos Heights takes canned goods from Simon Summers, 13, also of Palos Heights as they unload a truck of food at Together We Cope's food pantry. Standing at left is Benjamin Malchow, 18, of Tinley Park.

Homeschoolers pitch in at Together We Cope

Three young men being homeschooled by their parents get a different sort of lesson on Tuesday mornings when they volunteer to help their neighbors in need at Together We Cope.

"The thing I learned is that you wouldn't know from someone you see on the street that they might need help. The people who come here for food or clothes look just like anyone else. You never know who needs some help," said Simon Summers, 13, of Palos Heights.

Simon began volunteering at TWC after his mom, Dori, heard Carol Ettema speak about TWC at their Orland Park church.

Simon and two other young men being homeschooled meet every Tuesday morning for voluntary community service in TWC's food pantry.

On a recent Tuesday morning, they were leaving the pantry at noon and moving on to a science project that would be taught by one of their older sisters. Dirk Van Groningen, 14, of Palos Heights, has been homeschooled all of his life and is in the equivalent of eighth grade.

It was another homeschooler, Simon, who told Dirk about the opportunity at Together We Cope. Dirk's mom, Laura, is also his teacher and that's fine with Dirk.

Benjamin Malchow, 18, of Tinley Park, has finished the high school phase of his homeschooled education and currently is taking classes at a community college. His mom, Susan, volunteers at TWC and told him about the agency's work. "I want to give back to a good town, Tinley Park, so I help the town's less fortunate," he said. Benjamin said military duty runs in his family, "and I want to keep the tradition going."

Simon has several friends who are being homeschooled, as well as his siblings. He's thinking about college and would like to compete in track and field events.

Dirk would like to play soccer on a team someday, and is considering attending Trinity Christian College when he finishes his high school studies. "We are very fortunate to have such fine young men giving their efforts to us," said pantry director Ettema. "They are wonderful representatives of Together We Cope."

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SOUTH SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 13 | Number 10 | May 15, 2012

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

Worth Programs for senior entertainment

Senior Lunch Bunch Take a trip with us to local restaurants each month. Enjoy a variety of options. Indulge in your own taste and spend as much or as little as you would like!

Let us do the driving as you relax with friends! Menu will be available at time of registration. Pay for your portion of the check at time of trip.

June 13th we will be going to Aodake in Romeoville, IL. from 10:30 – 2pm. For more information, please call the Worth Park District at (708) 448-7080 or visit www.worthparkdistrict.org

Senior Luncheon Calling all Seniors! Enjoy a delicious homemade lunch, bingo and conversation with old and new friends. Residents and nonresidents are encouraged to attend. Please register and reserve your spot today!. Senior Lunch will be on June, 20th from 12:00 – 2:00 PM. The cost is $8.00 preregistration and $ 12.00 at the door. The Terrace Centre is located at 11500 S. Beloit. For more information, please call the Worth Park District at (708) 448-7080 or visit www.worthparkdistrict.org

Pat McCaskey discusses "Chicago Bears History" Registration is not required but seating is limited. Pat McCaskey will come out to Terrace Centre in Worth on Wed., June 27th at 7pm. He will be discussing his book "Bear With Me: A family history of George Halas and the Chicago Bears". For more information, please call the Worth Park District at (708) 448-7080 or visit www.worthparkdistrict.org

Bicycle Tour of Worth Join our Museum Curator on your bicycle as we tour a number of "historic" locations in town. Meet in our historic district in Gale Moore Park. We will ride past 10-15 locations and make stops along the way. All participants should wear a helmet and bring a bottle of water. Register at Terrace Centre by June 14th. Tour will be held on Thursday, June 21st from 6-7:30pm. For more information. please call the Worth Park District at (708) 448-7080 or visit www.worthparkdistrict.org Worth Park District is located at 11500 S. Beloit (3 Blocks West of Harlem on 115th Street).

Worth Park District Historical Museum announces their events

The Worth Park District Historical Museum will be signing their latest publication of "Worth, IL" at the open house on Thursday, May 17th from 6-8pm at 11500 s Beloit. Books are available for purchase for $20. All proceeds will retum to the museum. For more information please call 708 448 7080 x 107.

Upcoming Events for the Worth Museum: Join Mr. Sam Maranto as he provides evidence of UFO activity over Tinley Park, IL. He is the president of the local chapter of the Illinois Mutual UFO Phenomena. This is a free program and it will be held on Wednesday, May 9th at 7pm at the Worth Park District Terrace Centre.

Patrick McCaskey will be visiting the museum on Wednesday, June 27th to discuss a history of the Chicago Bears. Mr. McCaskey is a 36 year veteran of the organization and Senior Director. Join him at the museum for a discussion of his book, "Bear Wirth Me: A Family History of George Halas and the Chicago Bears". The event is being held at 7pm. Reservations are not required but are recommended. Please call 708-448-7080 x 107 for more information.

The museum is located at 11500 s Beloit in Worth, 3 blocks West of Harlem Ave

The members of Chicago Christian's winning team from The Stock Market Game™ are (from left) Teacher Ken Kreykes, Jared Tiesenga, Jimmy Steppien, Sean Steppien, Jimmy Cyze, and Principal Bob Payne (Palos Heights).

Chicago Christian Business Students Win State Award

Out of the possible 8,989 teams who entered the statewide competition, the Cabrera Statewide Award is given to the team of students with the highest investment return in the online investment program, The Stock Market Game™ .

Chicago Christian's team made up of seniors James Cyze (Orland Park), James Stepien (Beverly), Sean Stepien (Beverly) and Jared Tiesenga (Orland Park) finished in first place during this competition.

The Stock Market Game™ educational program, teaches students about the world of investments, helping them learn to research companies, make sound investment decisions and follow those investments over a number of weeks during the school year. Student teams begin with a virtual cash account, with which they create and manage a portfolio, which may include stocks, mutual funds and bonds. Teams conduct research and evaluate potential investments. Even though the money is not real, stock transactions are processed at real-time prices, connecting The Stock Market Game experience with real life.,

The original investment of $100,000 of virtual cash improved to a final portfolio equity of $135,438. They outperformed the S&P 500 for the same period by 25.74 percent.

Pictured from left to right: Mrs. Mary Zaharis (principal), George Plakias (seventh grade student) and Mrs. Michelle Ebert, junior high math & science teacher.

Koraes Elementary School "Most Improved Student of the Year" Honor

On Tuesday, May 1, 2012, Koraes Elementary School , affiliated with SS Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Palos Hills , student George Plakias was honored by The Kiwanis Club of Hickory Hills and received a certificate of recognition "for Most Improved student during the 2011 - 2012 school year".

With their accomplishment, students will visit the Chicago financial district making stops at the Union League of Chicago, Cabrera Capital Marketst, LLC., Chicago City Hall, the CME Group/Chicago Board of Trade, and the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. Also, each student will also receive a $200 award to be invested as they and their parents see fit. Teacher Ken Kreykes receives a $400 grant for personal professional development.

The awards are funded by Mr. Martin Cabrera, who also participated in The Stock Market Game™ when in high school, and credits much of his personal success to his early involvement in this program.

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B-MAC EDITION

Volume 6 | Number 10 | May 15, 2012

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Summertime in Alsip

by Jan Glaz

Mosquito News: The Board of Trustees agreed to remove the Village's Mosquito Chemical Appropriation from the Fiscal Budget for 2012-2013, at the Village of Alsip Board Meeting May 7th. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) has imposed new guidelines for the use of mosquito control chemicals that includes a strict permitting and annual reporting process. The State of Illinois approved this new permitting program in October of 2011. The Village of Alsip is currently taxed and serviced by the South Cook County Mosquito Abatement District in an improved program that is scheduled under Director Doug Wright.

Public Works Working: Six full-time temporary employees will be hired for the summer season. This hiring will be consistent with previous years. Each employee will work a maximum of 10 weeks. Start dates will vary and all employees are required to pass a physical before hiring. This expenditure has been appropriated for in the 2012/13 annual budget. The City Council also accepted a bid from J & J Reliable Doors, Inc. located in Lockport, IL., the company bid was the lowest qualified bid that met specifications for the removal of six overhead doors at the Public Works building and as part of the approval the installation of the optional 50,000 cycle door springs and heavy duty 3" door tracks and rollers: the total bid price is $17,184.00.

Apartment Building Renovation: Trustee Ryan addressed problems concerning the Heritage II Senior Apartments in Alsip in reference to their Capital Gains Plan. Ryan disclosed that the Village Properties Committee has identified 48 vacancies at the Heritage II apartments and with an average monthly rent of $600 to $800 their loss is almost 7,000.00 per month. In order to entice people to rent, the committee suggested painting walls and replacing carpeting in hallways, upgrading the existing water equipment and repairing storm sewers. "We have until August to get these kinds of things done," said Ryan.

One item was denied approval before the close of the village meeting. The request for a variance of the paving requirement for JAS Trucking, for the property located at the North East Corner of 131st Street. Trustee Quinn clarified the reason for denial is that they cannot grant a variance for something that the village does not have a plan for.

Heads up: To Gambling in Crestwood

by Jan Glaz

A positive vote from the Village of Crestwood Board of Trustees on May 3rd authorized gambling into the village code. The Video Gaming Ordinance in part specifies:

Any establishment within the Village which is licensed to sell alcoholic liquor and has obtained a license to operate a video gaming terminal from the Illinois Gaming Board at such premises shall be required to apply for and obtain a video gaming sticker from the Village for each video gaming terminal located at the establishment.

The ordinance further states that the Gaming Stickers be limited and regulated to the extent that they are prohibited on any premise that is located within 1,000 feet of a horse racing or riverboat gambling facility or located within 100 feet of a school or a place of worship.

No more than five video gaming terminals may be located on any premises where alcoholic liquor is sold and served for consumption. Gaming is restricted to persons over 21 years of age and no one under the age of 21 may use or play a gaming device.

The fee for each sticker is established at the maximum rate permitted by Illinois statute.

Mayor Robert Stranczek commented that gaming terminals could be located in a sit down restaurant that is open to families but the terminals must be placed in a separate environment within the establishment.

Before the meeting adjourned a resident asked for confirmation from the city council concerning the issue of publicity. "Did we hire a publicity firm and are they doing a good job?"

Mayor Stranczek replied that the village did employ a public relations firm and the firm is in the process of developing an extensive, improved Village of Crestwood website.

They are also in the early stages of sending forth positive articles about Crestwood to various news media.

Midlothian authorizes a prime land purchase

by Jan Glaz

On December 14th 2011 the Midlothian Board of Trustees approved an ordinance to authorize purchase of the Chevy Dealership on Cicero Avenue, and on May 9th, 2012, the Board of Trustees passed an ordinance authorizing the purchase of the Chrysler Real Estate, also on Cicero Avenue. Both purchases are for redevelopment. The Project area focuses on the enhancement and utilization of a significant segment of dormant commercial properties on the west side of Cicero Avenue between 147th and 145th Streets. All parcels are former automobile dealerships that have ceased operations. The buildings are deteriorated and dilapidated and the land acquisition redevelopment efforts will require demolition.

The total estimated Project Cost for redevelopment is $18 Million Dollars. Funds may be derived from a number of authorized sources. These may include, but are not limited to: Bond proceeds; Real Estate tax increment revenues from the Project Area; interest earned on temporary investments; gifts, grants and contributions.

Mayor Terrence Stephens announced good news concerning the approved additional expenditure of $108,000 to add 500 feet of water main on Waverly Avenue between Lawndale and Millard from the Water Bond Fund. "The village has been significantly below the engineers estimate for the entire project, to the tune of over a million dollars, because of the economy and people looking for work the pricing has been very competitive. So, the village actually came out ahead," said the Mayor.

The last items approved for spending were water main invoices: J Congdon Sewer Service, Inc. in the amount of $330,781.50, which has been approved by Robinson Engineering and a Robinson Engineering invoice in the amount of $3,055.00, approved by Rick Hansen.

Cook County Commissioner Joan Patricia Murphy sponsored May 1st as Silver Star Service Banner Day

During a ceremony on Tuesday hosted by the Veterans Assistance Commission of Cook County, 27 seven veterans from five wars were honored, including five who served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Two others were World War II veterans; three served in Korea and 17 in Vietnam. Each veteran was individually presented with a Silver Star Service Banner and Certificate by President Preckwinkle and the Commissioner representing the veteran's district.

Cook County Commissioner Joan Patricia Murphy Sponsored this resolution in 2008 Declaring May 1st a "Silver Star Service Banner Day," to honor the wounded and ill members of the United States Armed Forces from all wars.

"This is the fourth consecutive year presenting our heroic veterans their day of honor. Murphy also states, Today's ceremony gives us a chance to thank these heroes for their selfless service, sacrifice and commitment. All veterans are extraordinary human beings and true patriots."

The Silver Star Families of America was formed to encourage states, municipalities and counties to present banners to wounded or ill service and women so that their sacrifice may never be forgotten.

In our difficult times, please remember the USO at Midway Airport and support them!

City of Oak Forest appoints Troy Ishler city administrator

The City of Oak Forest has named Troy Ishler as its city administrator, effective immediately. Ishler, a life-long Oak Forest resident, has served as the city's director of Public Works since 2005.

"In view of major projects currently underway and those initiatives under consideration, it was apparent that we needed a qualified person to oversee departmental operations on a full-time basis," said Mayor Hank Kuspa. "Troy has been closely involved in several of those projects so he'll be able to jump right in."

In particular, Ishler has been managing the city's water service contract with the Village of Oak Lawn, the electrical aggregation plan, construction of the Metra train station, and negotiations with unionized employees. He also has been the city's representative at South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association meetings and events. Although Ishler will continue to oversee the Public Works Department, the day-to-day operations will be managed by Assistant Director of Public Works Rich Rinchich.

"I appreciate the confidence and support the mayor and City Council have given to me as I embark on this new phase in my career," Ishler said. "I am looking forward to working with them and city staff to move Oak Forest in a positive direction."

Ishler regularly volunteers in the community – most recently as a coach for the Oak Forest Baseball Association and is the treasurer of the southwest branch of the American Public Works Association.

Troy and his wife Karyn have three children: Jennifer, Kelly and Jake.

Oak Forest Police Department announces upcoming traffic enforcement campaign

From May 11 to May 28, the Oak Forest Police Department will conduct a citywide traffic enforcement campaign focusing on seat belt use during the day and night. The campaign coincides with the national Click It or Ticket initiative from May 23 through June 3.

"Too many drivers and passengers on the road are still not wearing their seat belts, and it all too often ends in tragedy," said Deputy Chief Dominic D'Ambrosio. "Our goal is to increase the percentage of belted vehicle occupants through a highly visible presence, so the Oak Forest.

Police Department will be out enforcing seat belt laws around the clock." The holiday enforcement campaign is the fourth in a six-part program to promote traffic safety by conducting saturation patrols in pre-assigned areas. The STEP grant differs from previous grant awards because it has shorter intervals between campaigns.

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We have found that through the years of publishing the readers are interested in general information and also local happenings within their community. Therefore because we are fully electronic, we will not be accepting faxed or mailed news releases.

Saint Xavier university students with State Rep. Kelly Burke (D-36th) at Private College Student Lobby Day in Springfield. (L to R) Samra Lynch, Chicago, junior; Aisha Jubeh, Mokena, sophomore; Misha Cooper, Chicago, sophomore; Markella Sarantopulos, Bridgeview, sophomore; Rep. Burke; Yadira Serna, Chicago, freshman; Amanda Tischina, Hodgkins, junior; and Gina Williams, Steger, junior.

SXU students meet with state legislators to fight for MAP grants at Private College Student Lobby Day

Seven Saint Xavier University students recently discussed with state legislators in Springfield, Ill. the crucial importance of Monetary Award Program (MAP) grants during a Private College Student Lobby Day.

Students met with State Sen. Edward Maloney (D-Chicago) and State Representatives Kelly Burke (D-36th), Bill Cunningham (D-35th), and Renee Kosel (R-81st). The students were encouraged to share their personal stories on how MAP grants affect them and other students they know, and how MAP grants and institutional aid make college possible.

MAP provides grants that do not need to be repaid to Illinois residents who attend approved Illinois colleges and demonstrate financial need based on the information provided by the Free Application for Federal Students Aid (FAFSA). The Illinois Student Assistance Commission, which administers the MAP grant, ran out of money for the need-based program in March, so eligible college students who apply for state assistance are now put on a waiting list. More than 51 percent of SXU undergraduates receive MAP grants.

The event, held every year in the capital, was organized by the Federation of Independent Illinois Colleges and Universities.

Earliest Due Date for Property Taxes in a Generation

Cook County property tax bills this year will be mailed in late June and should be due August 1.

This will mark the earliest mailing date and due date for second installment tax bills in more than thirty years. According to Assessor Rich E. Kelly, the early due date will surprise most taxpayers, while causing some hardship for those who have become accustomed to due dates that have been as late as December 13 in recent years. But schools and other taxing districts, some of which have had to borrow money because of the late due dates, will be pleased to reduce borrowing expenses.

"State law mandates that second installment tax bills in Cook County be paid by August 1," Assessor Kelly explained. "Since the 1970's, however, this law has been honored only in the breach." In order to meet the early due date, this year's April 30 deadline for homeowner and senior citizen tax exemptions was much earlier than in prior years.

Prior to the deadline, the assessor's offices from Cook County and Orland Township worked diligently to ensure that those eligible for money-saving exemptions would receive them on their bills.

Eligible taxpayers who have not yet applied for exemptions will still be able to obtain corrected bills after tax bills are mailed in late June. But such taxpayers need not wait until late June; they are encouraged to call the Orland Township Assessor's Office at 708-403-4222 for information on how to obtain corrected bills.

The early due date for tax bills is the result of a concerted effort by Cook County taxing agencies. Property tax bills cannot be issued until every assessed value in Cook County is determined, and every appeal is resolved. Given the size of Cook County and the number of appeals typically filed, it has been difficult for county agencies to finish their work early. But new people in the offices of Cook County Assessor, Cook County Board President and the Cook County Board of Review have changed past practices.

Help Oak Forest win $100,000 in PetSafe's "Bark for Your Park" contest

The dogs in Oak Forest have long dreamed of wide open spaces and a place to call their own. Now, residents can help make this dream a reality by voting for the City of Oak Forest in the 2012 Bark for Your Park contest conducted by PetSafe, the world's leading developer of feeding, fencing, and behavior training solutions for dogs and cats.

"Our Bark for a Park Committee has been working tirelessly to bring a dog park to our town," said Alderman Laura Clemons. "If we win, we would be able to build the dog park of our dreams with every amenity imaginable."

Residents can vote twice a day at www.petsafe.net/barkforyourpark and facebook.com/PetSafeBrand now through July 31, 2012 at 11:59 p.m., EDT. On June 15,

PetSafe will select 15 finalist cities to move forward in the contest. The 15 finalists will complete

two-minute videos showcasing their towns and their dedication to pet-friendly environments.

On August 3, PetSafe will announce the winners. The city with the most votes will receive $100,000 to build a PetSafe dog park. The runner-up and the city with the highest percentage of votes to its population will each receive $25,000.

"We're counting on the community's support to make our dog park a reality," Clemons added. "Whether you are a dog owner or not, please take a minute to go online and vote for your hometown."

The Presbyterian Church in Orland Park recognizes all Veterans as part of their service

The Presbyterian Church in Orland Park, 13401 S. Wolf Road, Orland Park, Illinois at the 10:00 a.m., Sunday, May 20th worship service will recognize all veterans as part of Armed Forces Sunday.

All families with members in the military currently serving will also be recognized.

All are welcome to attend.

Evergreen Park Farmers Market Re-Opens

June 7 is opening day for the 2012 Evergreen Park Farmers' Market.

The Market will be open every Thursday 7:00 A.M. until 2:00 p.m. through October 26 at Yukich Field, 90th & Kedzie.

The OCS Mini-Bus is available to transport residents to the Farmers' Market.

Phone 708-422-8776 for an appointment.

Community Wide Garage Sale in Worth

The Village of Worth is having there Community Wide Garage Sale, on June 29 and June 30, 2012, from 8am to 4pm. " Rain or Shine"

If you register before June 15th. your home will be marked on a map. Red Balloons will mark each individual sale location. Maps will be available for pick up from 9am to 5 pm at the Worth Village Hall, from June 25th threw June 29, 2012.

No permits will be needed for this weekend. All registered garage sales will be on the city map and will be available on city website, and Worth Village Hall, Worth Park District, Worth Public Library, plus www.villageofworth.org, beginning on June 25th, 2012.

The Registration Fee is $6.00, Deadline is Friday, June 15th, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.. For more information call 708-448-1181 or email VillageofWorth@gmail.com.

Contact Linda for all your Parades, Festivals, Carnivals, Fireworks, Bingo's, Craft Shows,Special Events by calling 312-624-8996, or fax 708-221-6663 or email at vvnew@sbcglobal.net

People's Choice Award - Ken Dompling and Joe Dinova from Blue Island

Firefighters Heat Things Up at 115 Bourbon Street

Winners of the Best Firehouse Chef Cook-off set things ablaze at the BIG Event

Sertoma Center, Inc. wishes to thank the twelve firefighters who came out to the BIG Event on Saturday, April 28th, 2012 at 115 Bourbon Street to help raise money and awareness for individuals with disabilities. "Without the firefighters, there wouldn't be a BIG Event", states Sertoma's Director of Advancement and Communications, Amy Chmura. "They work tirelessly preparing dishes like chili, fajitas, ribs, jambalaya, meat balls, crab cakes and more for the more than 700 guests who attended BIG Event this year, helping Sertoma Centre exceed their fundraising goal by ten percent." said Chmura.

Celebrity judges sampled every dish to determine the best Chili, Ribs, Poultry and Ethnic Dishes. BIG Event judges included: Mayor Patrick E. Kitching, of Alsip, Mayor Robert S. Straz, of Palos Heights, award winning columnist, Phil Kadner and reporter Casey Toner, both from SouthtownStar Newspaper.

Congratulations to the winners of the annual cook-off! Firefighter Bob Hopper of the Lombard Fire Department took home trophies for both the Best Chili with his Smoke Showin' Chili and the Best Poultry for Fireground White Chili. Jim Leibach and Steve Zook of the Niles Fire Department won the Best Ribs category with their Tillerboy Ribs and Dennis (Max) Malloy from Riverdale Fire Department won the Best Ethnic category with his Jambalya to the Max. The People's Choice award (new this year) was won by Ken Dompling and Joe Dinova from the Blue Island Fire Department for Ken and Joe's Pulled Pork. All the 2012 winners received trophies and a gift basket.

Other chefs that participated this year were Chicago firefighters Karl Graff and Brad Batka, Lemont firefighter Fred Heller, Lombard firefighter Mark Sepe and Markham firefighter Charles Faulkner.

Sponsored by SouthtownStar Newspaper and the Aileen S. Andrew Foundation, the BIG Event was supported by local Sertoma clubs, many area businesses, family and friends.

Sertoma would like to thank each of them and the volunteers who helped make the event a BIG success. Proceeds from the event benefit the almost 700 individuals with disabilities served by Sertoma Centre, Inc.

For more information, call Amy Chmura, Director of Advancement and Communications at 708-730-6206 or go to www.sertomacentre.org. Sertoma Centre, Inc. is a nationally-accredited, not-for-profit agency that provides services to individuals with developmental, physical and emotional disabilities, and/or mental illness.

Photo by Wehmeier Portraits

A Golf Outing pre event

A golfer lines up his shot during the 2011 Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce Golf Outing. This year's golf outing will be at Silver Lake Country Club on Thursday, June 21 at 9:00 a.m. with dinner immediately following. Openings are still available for sponsorship as well as golf. Registration forms are currently available on the chamber website at ww.orlandparkchamber.org.

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"Mowimy po Polska!"

Park Lawn volunteer and Big Bikes, Big Hearts Committee Member Steve Bonk let Park Lawn participants Joe Klotzke and Dana sit on his bike to prepare for the motorcycle run scheduled Sunday, May 20.

Motorcycle Irish Run for Park Lawn

Hundreds of motorcycle enthusiasts are encouraged to wear their Irish green apparel for local nonprofit Park Lawn's 15th Annual Big Bikes, Big Hearts (BBBH) Motorcycle Run scheduled for May 20th. All proceeds will benefit the programs and services individuals diagnosed with developmental disabilities. The entire route and event is coordinated by a committee of motorcycle enthusiasts including Steve and Patricia Bonk; Mark Miller; Doug and Donna Partl; and Frank Gassmere.

In 1997, the first BBBH event attracted around 200 bikers. In past years, more than 700 bikers arrived to ride for Park Lawn. The past few years also had a theme to encourage the bikers to have fun while raising funds for Park Lawn. This year's run is an Irish theme and the BBBH committee wants motorcyclist to ride for the mission and the Pot O' Gold. Riders need not be Irish to ride; they can just look the part that day.

There will be a costume contest for the best looking Irish man and woman. Everyone interested in attending should figure out how their Irish Kilt will work on the motorcycle. Registration begins at 8:30 AM at Tilted Kilt, 6401 W. 95th St. Chicago Ridge with the first bikes out at 10:00 AM and last bikes out by 11:00 AM. Breakfast will be offered at the Tilted Kilt and portion of the breakfast proceeds will be donated back to Park Lawn.

Included in the entrance fee are raffles, door prizes, a bike show, run pins to the first 700 bikers and live music and food at the post run party. Non-run participants are invited to the post run party at Sullivan's Irish Pub and Eatery in Midlothian, where there will be live music by Rock Star Rodeo and Nygel Ajax Band beginning at 2:30 PM. Everyone can receive more information and register online at www.parklawn.com/events or call 708-425-6867.

Registration fee is $25/rider and $5/passenger. In the event of inclement weather, the post run party will not be cancelled. The BBBH committee members and Park Lawn anticipate another successful year due to the help and support from local sponsors such as 4 Rebels Premium Vodka, A.B.A.T.E, Chi-Town Harley Davidson, Hupy and Abrahams, Keller Williams Preferred Realty, Klein Tools, Rt. 50 North in Manteno, Stella's in Romeoville, Sullivan's Irish Pub & Eatery in Midlothian, Toys for Tots, Tilted Kilt in Chicago Ridge. Big Bikes, Big Hearts is a charity event hosted by Park Lawn, a local nonprofit organization that provides programs and services for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Park Lawn's mission is to provide services that promote independence, choice and access to community living for people with developmental disabilities.

We provide services for adults between 21 through 70+ years old. Attending this event will provide better medical care and encourage independence for individuals with developmental disabilities. More information about Park Lawn can be found at www.parklawn.com.

Congressman Dan Lipinski (IL-3) will hold a Town Hall Meeting on Saturday, May 19, to hear from his constituents and take their questions about federal issues. He will also hold a Senior Fair on May 29, to give seniors a chance to get assistance with a variety of issues from his staff as well as local organizations, agencies, and businesses.

TOWN HALL MEETING Saturday, May 19, 10 a.m. American Legion Post 1941 900 South La Grange Road, La Grange, Illinois Starting one hour before the meeting, staff will assist constituents with Social Security and other federal issues. SENIOR FAIRS Tuesday, May 29, 10 a.m.

Noon Moraine Valley Community College 9000 West College Parkway, Palos Hills, Illinois The Congressman's staff will provide help with Social Security, Medicare, and other federal issues at his Senior Fairs. Numerous other organizations will also provide assistance. For more information, please call (312) 886-0481.

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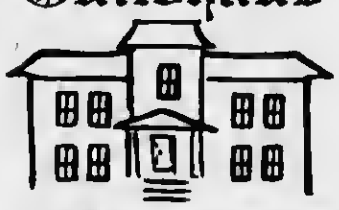

Please join us in celebrating 25 years of service on Sunday, June 3, 2012

2413 Canal Street, Blue Island, IL 60406

Open House: 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm
Dinner next door at Maple Tree Inn: 5:30 pm
Open Speaker Meeting: 7:00 pm

Dinner Ticket Donation: $50 must be purchased in advance no later than May 21, 2012
Raffle Tickets: $50 (1st Prize: $3,000, 2nd Prize: $1,500, 3rd Prize: $750)
(To purchase dinner or raffle tickets, please call 708-385-32281
http://guildhaus.org/25th

Guildhaus is a not-for-profit men's halfway house founded by Jack King. Jack was a retired Chicago Fireman who had a vision of providing long term support to men who were struggling to recover from drug and alcohol addiction. He was able to see his vision become a reality when he opened the doors of Guildhaus on December 31, 1987.

It is Guildhaus' mission to deliver conscientious, compassionate support to Guildhaus men establishing a solid recovery foundation, providing assistance in their transition to a drug- and alcohol- free lifestyle. Our ultimate goal is to see these men return home and rebuild relationships with their families and communities.

Pictured: St. Rita Athletic Director and Head Baseball Coach, Mike Zunica was joined by his children at the Chicago Catholic League Hall of Fame Inductions.

St. Rita Athletic Director Mike Zunica Inducted into the Chicago Catholic League Hall of Fame

On May 3, 2012, St. Rita Athletic Director and Varsity Head Baseball Coach, Mike Zunica was joined by family, friends and colleagues at the 52nd Annual Hall of Fame Induction Banquet of the Chicago Catholic League. Zunica was one of fifteen men honored by the Chicago Catholic League Coaches Association for their contributions to academic and athletic excellence within Chicago Catholic high school athletics

Coach Mike Zunica is currently entering his 16th season as Varsity Head Baseball Coach at St. Rita High School. He has amassed an overall record of 440 – 141. During his tenure, he has lead the Mustangs to 9 regional championships, 4 sectional championships, 4 super-sectional championships, and 9 Elite 8 appearances, including summer state championships in 2005 and 2009, and a 2nd place finish in both the spring of 2009 and 2010.

In addition to their success on the field, the St. Rita Mustangs Baseball team is proud of their comparable achievements in the classroom. This year's Varsity Mustangs have 17 student members of the National Honor Society. During Mike's tenure as head baseball coach, he has witnessed four members of his team earn the distinction of Class Valedictorian. St. Rita principal, Brendan Conroy said, "We are fortunate to have a baseball coach and athletic director like Mike, whose passion for St. Rita and commitment to the growth and improvement of his athletes and all our students is truly an inspiration."

"I believe the greatest gift you can give your kid is a Catholic education," said Zunica, who gave special thanks to his parents for the sacrifices they made to send him to Catholic schools. Zunica's wife, Jacqui and three children, Camille, Michael and Mateo were also present at the induction ceremony. During the past four years, Zunica had the opportunity to coach his son, Mike, who will be graduating from St. Rita this month and entering Columbia University in New York to play football in the fall.

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A Detailed Safety Plan is Important during the NATO Summit

Thousands of people will descend on the Chicago Metropolitan area next week for the 2012 NATO Summit. The Alzheimer's Association® wishes to remind caregivers and people living with Alzheimer's of the importance of an Alzheimer's care plan during the NATO summit.

"We cannot stress enough the need for a safety plan during the upcoming NATO summit," said Danielle Dodson, LCSW, care navigator, clinical supervisor for the Alzheimer's Association, Greater Illinois Chapter. "Changes in the daily routine for someone living with Alzheimer's can cause disorientation, confusion, and anxiety. This may become paramount with the influx of people in neighborhoods throughout Chicago in addition to the numerous street closings. Individuals with Alzheimer's may also exhibit impaired judgment and decision-making. Increased supervision and direction may be needed at this time. It is imperative that your caregiving plan include what to do in the event of an emergency. It is also important that you register your loved one with MedicAlert+Alzheimer's Association Safe Return®, a national database that will help reunite lost loved ones with their family and friends, available through our association."

There are 5.4 million Americans living with Alzheimer's disease, including 5.2 million people age 65 or older and 200,000 people under the age of 65 and someone in the United States develops Alzheimer's every 68 seconds.

The 2012 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures reports that an estimated 800,000 individuals in the United States have Alzheimer's and live alone, and up to half of these individuals do not have an identifiable caregiver. People with dementia who live alone are at greater risk of jeopardized health than those who live with others, including greater risk of missed or delayed diagnosis and increased risk for self-neglect, including malnutrition and untreated medical conditions. Those who have Alzheimer's and live alone are also at increased risk of wandering away from home unattended and of accidental death, possibly due to lack of recognition of harmful situations and delays in seeking medical attention. These issues are compounded by the fact that many individuals who live alone are often in denial of how serious their cognitive impairment is and refuse help from others.

For more information about the NATO Summit visit the City of Chicago's website www.cityofchicago.org. For information about caregiving call our 24/7 helpline at 1.800.272.3900 or visit www.alz.org/illinois.

About the Alzheimer's Association - The Alzheimer's Association, the world leader in Alzheimer research and support, is the largest voluntary health organization dedicated to finding prevention methods, treatments and cure for Alzheimer's. Since 1980, the donor supported, nonprofit Alzheimer's Association has provided reliable information and care consultation; created supportive services for families; increased funding for dementia research; and influenced public policy changes. The Greater Illinois Chapter serves 68 counties with offices in Bloomington, Carbondale, Chicago, Joliet, Rockford and Springfield. For more information, call our Helpline at 800.272.3900 or visit www.alz.org/illinois.

Village of Evergreen Park News

The Village's 50/50 Public Sidewalk Replacement Program sign-up has started. Each square will cost the homeowner $59.25. Sign-up will continue through June 8 with the final payment due by June 15. Please call the Street Department at (708) 422-1562, or stop in the Village Hall.

ComEd Outage Alert Program!

Simply text the word "OUT" to #26633 to report an outage at the location that ComEd has associated with your phone; then you will receive regular text updates on the status of your outage. For more information, visit www.ComEd.com/text.

The Annual Evergreen Park Day In The Park is scheduled for Saturday, June 30th; and the Independence Day Parade will be held on Tuesday, July 3.

From The Office of Citizens Services...

The next Senior Citizens Council Luncheon will take place on Thursday, May 17th at 11:30am at the Senior Center, 9547 S. Homan Ave. Lunch cost is $6; please purchase your tickets by the Monday prior to the Luncheon. Call (708) 422-8776

Recreation Department Happenings

Preschool registration is ongoing for the the Preschool 2012-2013 school year.

Morning and afternoon preschool available on M-W-F; mornings only on T-Th; and five-day programs available, too. Call (708) 229-3373 for more information.

The Spring/Summer books have been mailed out! The book can be found online at www.evergreenpark-ill.com. Copies are also available at the Village Hall and the Community Center.

Registration for everything - except Swimming - starts today from 9am - 8pm.

All swim program registration will be held Wednesday, May 30th from 9am - 8pm.

Both registrations will be held at the Community Center at 3450 W. 97th Street and will continue until classes fill or start. Questions? Please call the Recreation Department at (708) 229-3373.

Evergreen Park Chamber of Commerce News

Plans are under way for the Chamber's Annual Golf Outing on Friday, August 3 at Fountain Hills! Visit www.evergreenparkchamber.org or call

(708) 423-1118 for more information. Friday, May 18 - 5pm.. JIMMY-FEST at Bourbon Street. Advance ticket $20 by emailing tsinon@comcast.net.

EVERGREEN PARK STALLIONS! Football and Cheerleading Registration for the 2012 Season will take place on Saturday, May 19 at the Community Center (3450 W. 97th Street) from 10am - 12pm. Visit www.epstallions.org for more information!

Saturday, May 19th - CommUnity Garden Kickoff event at United By Faith Church, 3240 W. 98th Street. More information can be found by calling Head Gardener Robin Huiras at (773) 503-0528, or email huiras@gmail.com.

Evergreen Park Community High School of 1962 will hold their 50th Reunion for Class of 1962 on June 6th through 9th, 2012. For details, please call Linda Bein at 630-920-0037 or go to www.classreport.org.

St. Bernadette Catholic Academy offers 6-week Summer Fun Camp starting June 11. Please call (708) 422-6429.

Enrollment is now open for next fall's Sonshine Express Preschool at Jacob's Well Church, 3450 W. Maple Street. Call (708) 636-4585 or visit www.gccrc.org/sonshine_express_preschool.

YOUTH DEPARTMENT has teens looking for work! Hire village teens to do yard work, clean out the attic, basement or garage. Call (708) 229-3377.

CONGRATULATIONS! To former Village of Evergreen Park intern Pyeisha Allen, whose Suder Montessori Cheerleading Squad (for whom she is the Coach) took 2nd place in the Cheerleading City Championship!

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Now Serving Burgers and Paninis!
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Sandwiches & Fries • Pierogies • Potato Pancakes
Ask about our Catering Specials!

Lions of Evergreen Park honors Lion District 1A Governor Wes Salsbury

Lion District 1A Governor Wes Salsbury was the guest of Honor at a recent meeting of the Lions Club of Evergreen Park. Governor Wes spoke to the Club about District 1A activities and services.

He also spoke about Lions Club International which oversees services for needy people with sight and hearing problems around the world. District 1A alone sends hundreds of thousands of used eye glasses to distribution centers in Wisconsin and Indiana where they are sorted and packaged for shipping to Third World countries around the world giving vision to thousands of sight impaired people.

Welcoming the Governor are Lion Co-coordinator Frank Kirar, Lion Stan Urbancyzk, Board Member Bill Bruinius, Lion President Don Sisto, Lion Treasurer Harry Onderwater, Governor Wes Salsbury, Lion Vice President Terry Summers, and Lion Zone Cirman Dennis Maloney.

For further info on the Lions club you may visit their web site @ http://lionsclubofevergreenparkil.lionwap.org

One-day trips planned by Office of Citizens' Services, 3450 West 97th Street, Evergreen Park Phone: 708-422-8776

Summer Fireworks Cruise - Wednesday, June 27
Departure: 5:15 P.M.
Return: approx. 10:45 P.M.
Tickets: $72 (includes lasagna dinner at Pompei on Taylor Street;
1 hour fireworks cruise
Ticket deadline:
Wednesday, June 6

Cirque Shanghai & Chinatown - Friday, July 20, Departure: 10:00 A.M.
Return: approx. 4:45 P.M.
Tickets: $71 (includes shopping & lunch at House of Fortune Restaurant
in addition to special entertainment by Cirque Shanghai)
Ticket deadline:
Wednesday, June 20

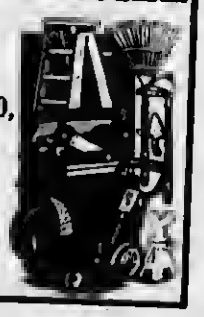
Electric Rails - The Elegant Farmer -
Wednesday, August 29
Departure: 7:00 A.M.
Return: approx. 5:45 P.M.
Tickets: $82 (trip to Kenosha, WI includes visit to new Civil War Museum, lunch at Boat House Pub & Eatery; visit East Troy Electric Railroad and museum; then enjoy ten mile, round-trip journey; shopping at Elegant Farmer Ticket deadline: Monday, July 30

Four Winds Casino, New Buffalo - Tuesday, September 25 Departure: 8:30 A.M. Return: approx. 3:30 P.M. Tickets: $41 (includes $15 instant slot play & $10 food credit, which can be used for lunch. Four restaurants open for lunch (buffet $14) Ticket deadline: Tuesday, September 4

Starved Rock Lodge "The Legacy Girls Christmas Show"

Tuesday, December 11
Departure: 9:45 A.M.
Return: approx. 4:45 P.M.
Tickets: $75 (includes delicious luncheon buffet and entertaining Christmas musical)
Ticket deadline: Friday, November 9

FRANKFORT SQUARE COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE
Saturday, May 19
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Rain or Shine. North & South of Route 30, West of Harlem by Saunoris Nursery, South of 191st, 2 mi East of Route 45. Maps at houses, Seven Eleven and Park District. Questions? (815)469-3524***75+ HOMES



Village of Justice
Village-Wide Spring Garage Sale Days
May 18th, 19th & 20th
Shoppers: Pick-up a List of Addresses at Village Hall
7800 Archer Rd, Justice, IL
(708) 458-2520
Free Permits Available Now!

Auxiliary Poppy Symbolizes Nation's Sacrifice

American Legion Auxiliary members of Marrs-Meyer Unit #991 in Worth understand the sacrificeour Armed Forces have made to preserve freedom, and to honor past and current American servicemembers, these members will wear a red memorial poppy as a sign of their appreciation on Memorial Day weekend.

The American Legion Auxiliary memorial poppy is a symbol of the price of war and the sacrificeof millions. The 900,000 members of the American Legion Auxiliary, the world's largest patriotic service organization of women, are asking every American citizen to wear a poppy on the observance of Memorial Day, Monday, May 28, 2012, in addition to the entire preceding weekend.

"Wear it in honor of the millions of Americans who have willingly served our nation, all too many of whom have made the ultimate sacrifice," said Bethanne Lode Poppy Day Chairman. "This entire

Memorial Day weekend will pay an honored tribute to all veterans, especially those who are currently serving in the War on Terror." she added. The poppy also honors the hospitalized and disabled veterans who hand assemble the small red flowers as a rehabilitation project each year.

The poppy continues to provide a financial and therapeutic benefit to those veterans who construct them, as well as benefiting thousands of other veterans and their families by the revenues collected from poppy distributions.

In the battlefields of France during World War I, poppies grew wild amid the ravages of war. The overturned soils of battle enabled the poppy seeds to be covered, allowing them to flourish and forever serve as a reminder of the bloodshed of war.

Watch for our volunteers throughout the Village of Worth on Thursday, May 24, 2012 and join the American Legion Auxiliary in recognizing the sacrifice of our veterans by donating generously this Poppy Day and by wearing a red memorial poppy this Memorial Day weekend.

www.villageviewls.weebly.com

Letter to the Editor

"THANK YOU!"
VOLUNTEER TAX COUNSELORS

A heartfelt "Thank you!" from the Office of Citizens' Services to the Volunteer Income Tax Counselors.

The following dedicated Volunteers donated their time and expertise assisting residents in filing their tax returns, as well as filing Illinois Circuit Breaker forms and Cook County Senior Freeze Property Tax applications:

Larry Connelly, 2 years;
Gilbert Drucker, 8 years;
Tony Gallo, 10 years;
Richard Lynch, 18 years;
Harry O'Sullivan, 15 years; Frank Ross, 6 years
Marge Woods, 1 year

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Siggy Letheby, regional recruitment coordinator for the Department of Labor, talks to attendees at Moraine Valley Community College's "Career Paths and Coffee" speaker series on March 10 where he shared tips for job seekers.

Moraine Valley Career Paths and Coffee speaker series a success with plans to continue

More than 80 eager job searchers attended the first Moraine Valley Community College "Career Paths and Coffee" speaker series on March 10 to hear presenter Siggy Letheby, regional recruitment coordinator for the Department of Labor, talk about "Tips for the Mature Job Seeker." Letheby gave a summary of tips, techniques and strategies for adults on finding jobs, how the workplace has changed, and how job searching has changed. He also tapped the audience in to resources for the job hunt.

A majority of people in the audience were job searching, whether they were looking to switch from a current job to another, were unemployed or underemployed, but all were interested in moving forward in a career.

"Through our free speaker series and our information sessions we're trying to help the community grow and improve their future career prospects," said Peggy Heenan, Moraine Valley Admissions recruiter.

The speaker series will continue with another session on Saturday, August 4, with guest Richard Oberbruner, an inspirational speaker who studied improv at The Second City Theater and uses those techniques in his presentations.

"Career Paths and Coffee" adult sessions are where people can learn about how to become an adult student at Moraine Valley. Whether it's been years since someone has stepped in a classroom or is looking to improve job skills or change careers, there's no time like the present to join other adults and discover what's possible in the future at this free event.

The hour-long adult information session is the first step for adults to learn about programs and resources at Moraine Valley in a relaxed setting. This is an opportunity to get a sense of the college scene before committing to coursework. Staff will discuss hot careers to pursue, where the jobs are and what programs can help students get there.

Upcoming sessions in Building S on the main campus, 9000 W. College Pkwy in Palos Hills, are May 9, June 13 and July 18 at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Moraine Valley also is offering sessions July 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the college's Education Center at Blue Island, 12940 S. Western Ave.; and May 10 and July 19 at 6 p.m. in the college's Southwest Education Center, 17900 S. 94th Ave. in Tinley Park..

For more information, call Moraine Valley's Admissions Office at (708) 974-5759, email Willsd6@morainevalley.edu or visit morainevalley.edu/adultsuccess.

Moraine Valley hosting innovation grant funding program

Individuals who have dreamed up the "next big thing" but need help seeing it become a reality can attend a free workshop about obtaining funding to support their idea through commercialization. The workshop will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., on Wednesday, June 13, in Moraine Valley Community College's Moraine Business and Conference Center, Room M210, 9000 W. College Pkwy., Palos Hills.

Eleven federal agencies distribute Federal Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) grants worth up to $1.15 million to university researchers, companies with ideas for an innovative product or independent inventors. This workshop teaches the sequence of steps to take to strategize and develop compelling proposals. Participants will learn how to uncover agency missions and research and development needs, as well as differences in their SBIR/STTR programs.

Moraine Valley Community College and Governor's State University are sponsoring this free workshop. Lunch will be provided.

Reservations are required and can be made by calling (708) 974-5690 or emailing ccce@morainevalley.edu.

Moraine Valley to host youth summer camps

The 2012 Summer Basketball Camp for boys and girls entering third through eighth grades will be held Monday, July 16, through Thursday, July 19, from 9 to 10:30 a.m.

Bill Finn, Moraine Valley Athletics director and former men's basketball coach, is heading this camp. The camp is intended to develop and improve fundamental basketball skills for youths of all abilities through group and individual drills, instruction and team play.

The Moraine Valley Summer Volleyball Camp for boys and girls entering fifth through ninth grades will take place Monday, July 16, through Thursday, July 19, from 11 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Moraine Valley women's volleyball head coach Gloria Coughlin is leading this camp.

The cost for each camp is $70 and will be held in Moraine Valley's gymnasium, 9000 W. College Pkwy., Palos Hills. Participants can only register through Moraine Valley's Athletics Department. For more information call the Athletics Department at (708) 974-5727 or visit www.morainevalley.edu/Athletics.

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Photo Liz Lauren

Brian Dennehy as one-time syndicalist-anarchist Larry Slade with Nathan Lane as Theodore "Hickey" Hickman in Eugene O'Neill's The Iceman Cometh directed by Robert Falls at Goodman Theatre (April 21 – June 17, 2012).

The Iceman Cometh headlining Nathan Lane and Brian Dennehy

by Annette Dixon

Nathan Lane and Brian Dennehy made the four and three quarter hour play about drunks and dreamers an intense drama of saints and sinners.

Nathan Lane is not only an entertaining actor, adored in The Adams Family Musical, but a dramatic profound actor with immense talent. Little did we know that he could sustain four and three quarter hours of dialog with a cast of 18 actors. He showed his professional self, not once but twice, premiering in Chicago, first a musical and now Eugene O'Neill"s Modern Masterpiece, The Iceman Cometh.

Brian Dennehy, an afficiondo of The Iceman Cometh, and all of Eugene O'Neill's works played the part of Theodore Hickman ("Hickey"), a salesman at the Goodman Theatre 10 years ago. Brain and Nathan are good friends.Brian Dennehy hasn't lost his acting ability, for he too held up his own for the same 4 3/4 hours. What was more prevelent is that neither of the two gentlemen I have written about ever upstaged any of the 18 cast members.

The names of other cast members are Stephen Ouimette, Larry Neumann, Jr., Salvatore Inzerillo, Marc Grapey, John Judd, John Reeger, James Harms, John Douglas Thompson, Lee Wilkof, John Hoogenakker, Patrick Andrews, Tara Sissom, Lee Stark, Kate Arrington, Loren Lazerine, Bret Tuomi. The desin team from The Iceman Cometh include Kevin Depinet (set), Natasha Katz (lighting), Merrily Murray-Walsh (costumes), and Andra Velis Simon (music director). Joseph Drummond is the Prodution Stage Manager.

Eugene O'Neill's The Iceman Cometh is studied by almost every student in HighSchool and many in College. Robert Falls is by far the best artistic director who ventures into works of art that many would never be able to accomplish.

The audienees where actually speechless during the intermission and couldn't wait for the next acts. There was a little scuttle that you would here in the woman's washroom regarding how the time is flying by or how wonderful the actors are especially Brian Dennehy and Nathan Lane.

On the day of each performance the student prices are still $10 for students with Identification and Mezztix, which is half price mezzanine tickets hased on availability. You can also order tickets at a low price of $61 to $133 by purchasing at the box office at 170 North Dearborn. You can still see this play worth the price until June 17. Call 312-443-3800 or visit GoodmanTheatre.org.

Shattered Globe Theatre Presents The Midwest Premiere of

HER NAKED SKIN

By Rebecca Lenkiewicz
Directed by Artistic Director Roger Smart
Until June 3, 2012

As part of Shattered Globe Theatre's 20th Anniversary Season, the Stage 773 resident company will present the Midwest premiere of HER NAKED SKIN by Rebecca Lenkiewicz, directed by Artistic Director Roger Smart, playing until June 3, 2012 at Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago. Tickets for HER NAKED SKIN are currently available online at www.stage773.com or www.shatteredglobe.org or by calling (773) 327-525.

HER NAKED SKIN features Shattered Globe Ensemble Members Kate LoConti, Alice Pacyga, Linda Reiter, Drew Schad, Angie Shriner, Dan Wilson and Brad Woodard, as well as members of the Shattered Globe Protégé Program, Trina McGee, Kelsey Melvin, Matthew Nerber and Jesse Thurston. The cast also includes Graham Brown, Maya Friedler, Andy Gwyn, Kevin Kenneally, Tim Newell, Shelia O'Connor and Melissa Reimer.

London 1913. Militancy in the Suffragette Movement is at its height. Thousands of women of all classes serve time in Holloway Prison in their fight to win the vote. Amongst them is Lady Celia Cain, who feels trapped by both policies of the day and the shackles of a frustrating marriage. Inside, she meets a young scamstress, Eve Douglas, and her life spirals into an erotic but dangerous chaos.

Curtain Times: Thursdays & Fridays at 8 pm, Saturdays at 3 pm & 8 pm, Sundays at 3 pm

Tickets: $18 - 34. Available online at www.stage773.com or www.shatteredglobe.org or by calling (773) 327-5252.

FRANK GALATI'S STAGE ADAPTATION OF E.L. DOCTOROW'S THE MARCH

Tony Award-winning ensemble member Frank Galati retums to the helm at Steppenwolf Theatre Company with his stage adaptation of The March, Pulitzer Prize-finalist E.L. Doctorow's novel about General William Tecumseh Sherman's Civil War march through Georgia. This marks Galati's second stage production of a Doctorow novel, following the highly-acclaimed musical Ragtime (1998). The much-anticipated production features a cast of 26 playing a mix of fictional and historical characters runs through June 10, 2012 in Steppenwolf's Downstairs Theatre (1650 N Halsted St). Tickets ($20 – $78) are on sale now (prices are subject to change)

The March was co-commissioned by Steppenwolf and the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, through the American Revolutions: the United States History Cycle. The Revolutions project is Oregon's commitment to commission 37 new plays "sprung from a moment of change, inspiration or conflict in United States history." The number 37 was chosen to match the canon of Shakespeare's work; The March is among the first ten of the plays commissioned.

General William Tecumseh Sherman, Uncle Billy to his men, marches 62,000 Union soldiers through lush Georgia countryside. Bearing along both black and white refugees, the march destroys everything in its path, turning home into exile and exile into home. Its epic force forever changes the lives of those caught up in its sweep: a liberated slave, a sheltered daughter of a Southern judge, a pair of Confederate deserters and Uncle Billy himself. The March is a story of momentous upheaval and the limits of eourage and love.

Steppenwolf's 2011/12 season, Dispatches from the Homefront, explores how everyday lives are tnuched by war. In each of the five plays, war Tickets to The March ($20 – $78) are currently on sale at Audience Services (1650 N Halsted St), 312-335-1650 and the NEW www.steppenwolf.org. 20 for $20: twenty $20 tickets are available at Audience Services beginning at 11am on the day of each performance (1pm for Sunday performances). Rush Tickets: half-price rush tickets are available one hour before each show. Student Discounts: a limited number of $15 student tickets are available online using promo code "MARCH15". Limit 2 tickets per student; must present a valid student ID for each ticket. For additional student discounts, visit steppenwolf.org/students. For additional information, visit steppenwolf.org/groups.

Photo by Liz Lauren

Ian McDonald, in the title role of Timon after he has lost everything in CST Artistie Directnr Barbara Gaines' production of William Shakespeare's Timon of Athens.

Timon of Athens now running until June 10 at Chicago Shakespeare Theater

by Annette Dixon

Directed by Chicago Shakespeare Theater Artistie Director Barbara Gaines,Timon of Athens is the work of Shakespeare and rarely seen since it is an unfinished work of Shakespeare.

The tragic story of the fall of Lord Timon, one of the riches gentleman in Athens is updated for our modern day. At the start of the play, Timon is throwing money at his friends, paying their debts, making them rich, and buying their affection. This play doesn't leave a stone unturned.

A production that has been in the works for two years, Barbara Gaines, met and wanted Ian McDiarmid for the leading role.

On Mother's Day, my grandson and I were watching Star Wars Prequel and saw Ian McDiarmid as the Emperor (Senator Palpatine). I was happy to be able to see him in person opening night as Timon, and his debut at Chicago Shakespeare Theater. Commenting on Shakespeare's Timon of Athens, Ian McDiarmid says, "it is very much a play for now. Sharespeare proves once again to be our close contemporary, reflecting, in this instance, a culture luxuriating in unearned wealth and then shocked and bereft by the sudden lace of it; a state exactly mirrored by Timon himself."

Timon of Athens runs from now through June 10 in Chicago Shakespeare Theater's Courtyard Theater. Performances are Tuesdays through Fridays at 7:30 PM with a 1 PM matinee on Wednesdays, Saturdays at 3 PM and 8 PM, and Sundays at 2 PM and 6 PM. Tickets are on sale for $44-$75 with special discounts available for groups of 10 or more. All patrons receive a 40% discount on guaranteed parking in Navy Pier garages. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Chicago Shakespeare Theater's Box Office at 312-595-5600 or visit www.chicagoshakes.com

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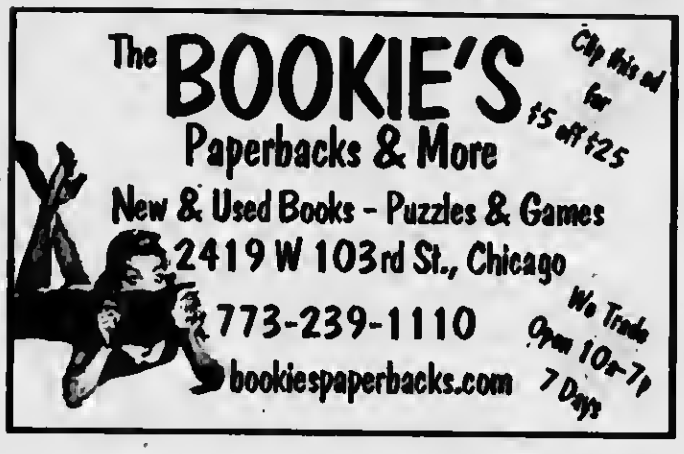

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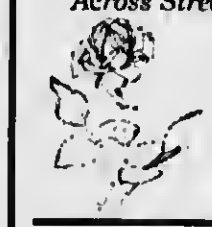
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Blue Island Park District

Monday Family Movie Nights

Monday nights are for families! Enjoy a comfortable evening with your family at the park. Let the Park District host your family on the first Monday of the month. In addition to that, each night we will host a special theme with family-friendly activities and prizes. All Movies are held at the Memorial Park Pavilion.

Kung fu Panda 2

June 4. 8:30pm Movie, 7:30pm Demonstration

Arrive early for a free lesson in Self-defense/ Jujitsu and an amazing demonstration on martial arts with the renown Master David Cervantes. All youth participants will be entered into a drawing for a free session of Self-defense classes at the Blue Island Park District. Please wear loose fitting clothing to participate in demonstrations.

Toy Story 3

July 2, 8:30pm sunset

Participants are encouraged to bring their favorite toy for the viewing of this film.

Ever feel like some of your older toys aren't receiving enough love? Donate the toys that you've outgrown for a chance to win some awesome prizes. Each donated toy can be exchanged for a raffle ticket. After the Movie, The Park District will raffle off an abundance of pool passes to our Memorial Park Pool. All Donated toys will be donated to the Salvation Army.

Pirates of the Caribbean 4: On Stranger Tides

Daddy and Daughter Dance

Dress up, take pictures and dance the night away! Enjoy dancing to all types of music, a dance contest, refreshments, and activities. Remember dads, they're never too old to be your little girls.

On June 15th, 2012 at 6pm – 9pm ~ : All Ages are welcome to come to Memorial Park Banquet Hall at the Blue Island Park District.

Price per Couple:~ $6 in Advance ~ $8 at the Door ~$3 Dollars additional Child.

All guests must pay entry fee except 2yrs and younger are free.

Yard Sales

The Blue Island Park District will host two outdoor yard sales this summer. Booth registrations are taken at the Memorial Park Field House during office hours. Registrations will be taken on a first come. No admission.

June Yard Sale
June 16, 2012 at
9am – 3pm
Vendor Set up time:
8:30am – 9am
Booth Fee: $15

August Yard Sale
August 11, 2012 at
9am – 3pm
Vendor Set up time:
8:30am – 9am
Booth Fee: $15

www.blueislandparks.org or call 708-385-3304 for more info.

The Blue Cap Foundation Charity Invitational on Wed., June 20, 2012

Blue Cap Foundation invites you to attend its 17th Annual Charity Invitational Golf Outing. If you enjoy playing a unique, superbly kept course, then you'll have a great time at Silver Lake Country Club.

We promise a day of golf, great food, networking, good times and a chance to win fabulous prizes.

The outing begins with a shotgun start on both the North and South course at Silver Lakes. A hotdog lunch at the halfway house, refreshments througout the day, a chance to win a prize with a hole-in-one, and a lot of other great prizes will add up to a fabulous time. A dinner and short awards ceremony round out the day's events.

If you would like to make a donation, print and mail this form to: Blue Cap Development Office, 1962 Broadway, Blue Island, IL 60406. Or futher information or donations call 708-389-8137 Ext. 303.

"Spots Going Quickly"

The Hickory Hills Park District has openings in their Little Learners Preschool classes:

5 days a week (M-F) $1460.00 for year
3 days a week (M/W/F) $820.00 for year
2 days a week (T/TH) $655.00 for year

Classes start in September and run thru May, 2013. Class times are 8:45 a.m.-11:45 a.m. or 12:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

The office is open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. for registration. In order to register, your child's birth certificate and immunization records are required.

For more information, please call 708-598-1233 or visit www.hhparkdistrct.org.

Contact Linda for all your Parades, Festivals, Carnivals, Fireworks, Bingo's, Craft Shows, Special Events by calling 312-624-8996, or fax 708-221-6663 or email at vvnew@sbcglobal.net.

Classified

Rummage Sale

Annual Rummage Sale
Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
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Fashion Trends to Headline 3rd Annual Ladies High Tea

Please Plan to Attend This Special Sertoma Event on Friday, June 1, 2012

When the Sertoma Centre and Sertoma Speech and Hearing Center present their 3rd Annual Joint Fundraising "Ladies High Tea" on June 1st at Crystal Tree Country Club, guests will be treated to a "Fashion Tips for the Future" presentation by Kimberly Bond, of Kimberly Bond's Boutique in Orland Park.

The event starts at 11:00 am with an array of unique vendors showing brand new products and services. This is a one of a kind display of businesses that cater to women and an opportunity to try out the latest in jewelry, cosmetics, cookware, spa treatments and more. In addition to this, each lady will receive a complimentary photo of herself in her summer finery – hats are encouraged.

At noon, the first of three High Tea courses will be served as the fashion show begins

and entertainment by harpist Amy Lee accompanies the models from Kim's Boutique. "I am always delighted to show the guests the latest in day and evening wear," said Ms. Bond. "This year I will also be talking about what to expect as fashion trends and the "do and do not" in styles for the coming season."

Invitations are available by request by going to either Sertoma organization's web site. Cost is $40 for the event and RSVPs must be received no later than May 23rd. Last year the event audience doubled in size and is expected to increase again this year. No walk in guests will be possible due to the size of the room and need to order adequate refreshments.

There are a few limited sponsorship opportunities available. For more information regarding sponsorship, please contact Melanie Jones, the fundraising consultant for the Sertoma Speech and Hearing Center at 708-305-3680 or griffisjones@msn.com.

For more information on the High Tea; to request an invitation or to make your reservation early and insure a table at the event, call Amy Chmura at Sertoma Centre, 708-730-7206 or achmura@sertomacentrc.org. Profits from this event go towards funding programs at Sertoma Centre and support for sliding scale fee patients at the Sertoma Speech and Hearing Center.

St. Joseph Parish Fest

At St. Joseph Catholic Church, 7240 W. 57th Street, Summit, IL 708-458-0501. Thurs. May 31st 6:00-11:00pm, Friday, June 1st 6:00-12:00am, Sat, June 2nd 2:00-12:00am & Sun June 3rd 2:00-10:00pm.

All you can Ride Wristbands on Sale at the Parish office. Rides, Games, Food, Beer Tent, Live Bands, $10,000 SUPER RAFFLE- $20 a ticket.

For more information, please call the rectory at 708-458-0501.

Obituary

Friar Mark M. Cucci OFM Conv. age 71; loving son of the late Carmen Michael and Thomasina nee Cacciato; dear brother of Mary Therese; also survived by many family members and friends.

Visitation and Memorial Mass was held Friday May 11, 2012 10:00 am until time of Mass 11:00 am at St. Bernadette Church 9343 S. Francisco. Evergreen Park. Interment St. Mary Cemetery. Arrangements by Kosary Funeral Home (708) 499-3223

Date of Death: May 3, 2012; Place of Death: Little Company of Mary; Residence: Evergreen Park;

Place of Birth: Chicago; Occupation: Friar / Retired from the Village of Evergreen Park

Kids Garage Sale

At Justice Park District Community Center, Saturday, May 19, 2012, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. 7747 S. Oak Grove Ave, Justice, IL.

For information call 708-458-1370. Children Items Only

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SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 38 | Number 23 | June 5, 2012

Burbank, Evergreen Park, Hickory Hills, Justice, Oak Lawn

Justice reveals Cell Tower earnings

by Jan Glaz

Trustee Ed Rusch Jr. revealed details concerning the Village of Justice Cell Tower earnings and the lease renewal from Crown Castle at the Village of Justice Board of Trustees Meeting held on May 14th. Rusch related that an additional 4 years was negotiated at 6% and with compound interest it will provide the village with substantial revenue. Also, as a bonus, the village will be given $10,000.00 along with an opportunity that if any additional renters are elected space on the tower, the village will collect rent accordingly. At a previous meeting, Trustee Rusch had mentioned that there is a great profit involved with cell towers: An offer to purchase one of Justice's cell tower easements came in at $190,000.00, and then after a two week period, the offer escalated to $250,000.00. Rusch made a motion and the Ordinance of the Village of Justice approving a first amendment to PCS Site Agreement with STC to LLC for the Property located at 8741 Industrial Drive to redo the agreement for use of the cell tower at the Public Works site for 5 years, at a 5% annual reimbursement, brought a positive vote.

A second ordinance was accepted by the Board of Trustees authorizing the execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Illinois Office of the Comptroller and the Village of Justice regarding access to the Comptroller's Local Debt Recovery Program. Trustee Melanie Kuban clarified the reason for the ordinance stating that the Comptroller's Office, collecting debts through debtor's income taxes, has changed their parameters by affirming that they will not collect a debt that is more than ten years old and will not pursue a debt that is less than $10.00.

Focus on New Business: We Care Recycling was approved for a license doing the business of providing recycling containers for books and clothing in various locations throughout the Village. Two other new businesses will open in Justice, the Blue Nose Brewery, doing business at 7857 S Cronin and North Pole Refrigeration doing business at 8805 W. 83rd Street in Justice.

Before the meeting adjourned a possible action to approve the purchase of a new lawn mower for the Administration Building grounds and adjacent right-of-ways was postponed until further notice

Hickory Hills Alderman requests report from Fire Department

by Jan Glaz

At the Hickory Hills City Council Meeting, May 24th, Alderman Szeszycki questioned the City Council as to why they never receive a report from the Fire Department when the city annually spends $10,000 for inspections? He further commented that they have around 400 inspections per year, which warrants having proper feedback from the Department. Mayor Howley agreed with the Szeszycki saying that he has had to call to follow up on certain issues and the only report the city receives is a quarterly report from the Police Department. "I'll make the request... good point alderman," said the Mayor.

Public Works Director L. Boettcher reported a problem with the theft of metal within the city, especially the city's schools; he specifically drew attention to the fact that the metal cap on the city's fire hydrant was stolen. He asked the local press to aid in spreading the word to the public to watch for metal thieves. Boettcher also directed attention to the diseased trees in the area of Arrowhead and Great Oaks, within the city. He announced that the Forest Preserve District agreed to cut down dead trees, dead branches and all Ash trees that will die from the Emerald Ash Boar. He suggested that because Hickory Hills has numerous Ash trees and the disease is spreading quickly that the Forest Preserve should start to cut down all Ash trees, and in addition home owners should do the same.

Alderman Ferrero announced details of the annual Hickory Hills Street Fair before the meeting adjourned. There will be a "Kick-Off" to the Fair on Saturday June 23rd from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. with over 100 Crafters and Vendors, great food, rides for the kids, a car show, plus the Neverly Brothers are scheduled to perform. The actual Fair date is Sunday June 24th from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., entertainment on Sunday features High Action Band and Logical Confusion. A Bingo Tent will be open from 12 Noon to 6 p.m. all proceeds from Bingo will be donated to: Sertoma Speech & Hearing, Hickory Hills Chamber of Commerce and St. Patricia's Athletics Association.

Justice authorizes engery savings

by Jan Glaz

An Ordinance authorizing aggregation of electric load and adopting an electric aggregation plan of operation and governance met with unanimous approval on May 29th at the Village of Justice President and Board of Trustees Meeting, as did action to approve a bid for the Municipal Aggregation of Electric Supply for Justice, subject to review and revision by the village attorney.

Six bids from energy suppliers were submitted and the village settled on First Energy, headquartered in Akron Ohio, one of the nation's largest investor-owned electric systems. First Energy offered a 1 year rate at 4.58 cents per kilowatt hour, which compared to ComEd, now at 8.5 cents per hour, is a savings of 43% for the energy portion of a resident's electric bill. First Energy structured a 2nd year rate at 4.8 cents, and a 3rd year rate at 5.4 cents. Trustee Ed Rusch Jr. disclosed the fact that if ComEd should drop their rate lower than that offered by First Energy the Company would match it. Residents have the privilege to opt out and a $25.00 opt-out fee would be waived. "It is truly a win-win situation," said Rusch.

City Clerk Kathy Svoboda announced that on June 12th at 7:00 p.m. the village is hosting a tax appeal seminar. She encouraged as many people as possible to appeal their taxes due to changes that have occurred and the fact that assessed tax evaluations are confusing. All will benefit from the information presented at the seminar. Information will be available on the village website.

Before the meeting adjourned, Clerk Svoboda reported an early detection of mosquitos carrying the West Nile Virus. The mosquito samples were collected in DuPage County. The premature presence of the disease is attributed to this year's early warm weather, which increased mosquito activity. Water sources in Cook County will be inspected on regular cycles and treated about 5 to 6 times this season. The public is requested to report the presence of dead birds within the village to the Cook County Department of Public Health, a phone number for the Department of Public Health will be available from the village hall.

Evergreen Park Public Library announces June programs

Evergreen Park Library Book Drive Accepting Donations

Beginning June 1, donations of: used hardcover books, paperbacks, music CDs, videos, and DVDs will be accepted at the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 South Troy. Please note: We cannot accept magazines, encyclopedias, or textbooks, nor can we pick up your donation. For more information call 708-422-8522.

Volunteers for Evergreen Park Library Garden Walk Needed!

The Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 S. Troy needs residents to volunteer their garden for the 2012 Blossoms for Books Garden Walk on Sunday, July 15 from 11:00 am until 4:00 pm. Applications can be found at the library or online at www.evergreenparklibrary.org. For more information, call (708) 422-8522 or email director@evergreenparklibrary.org.

The Garden Club of Evergreen Park June Meeting

The Garden Club of Evergreen Park will meet on Thursday, June 7 at 6:30 pm. All meetings are held on the 1st Thursday of the month. "Trowel and Error", a round table question and answer forum will be featured in the June meeting. Nonmembers may attend up to 2 meetings by making a small donation ($5 for most meetings). For information, email Beth Donahue at bnjdonahue@hotmail.com or click http://www.epgardenclub.org/index.html.

Printers Row Book Crawl with the Evergreen Park Library

The Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 S. Troy, invites all ages to visit the Printers Row Lit Fest on Saturday, June 9. A school bus departs EP Library at 9:30 am. Explore Printers Row Lit Fest and lunch on your own. For a full description of activities, www.printersrowlitfest.org. The bus will depart for the return trip to the library at 2:30 pm. Limit 40 participants. Registration is required. For more information, call (708) 422-8522.

Village View

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FAR SOUTH EDITION

Volume 10 | Number 11 | June 5 , 2012

Oak Forest, Orland Park, Tinley Park

Orland Park celebrates 120 years

by Jan Glaz

The Village of Orland Park celebrated its 120th birthday with the help of the next generation. Student Government Day 2012 was held May 21, 2012; in conjunction with the Village of Orland Park's regularly scheduled Board of Trustees Meeting. The official 120th anniversary of the village's date of incorporation is May 31, 1892. "We were looking for exciting ways to celebrate the villages past 120 years and thought it would be fun to have our next generation of leaders be a part of village government," said Orland Park Mayor Dan McLaughlin. Village residents in sixth, seventh and eighth grade were invited to write essays describing what they like best about eight different aspects of village government referring to community planning, local government, police department, public services, recreation programs, special events, village facilities and village history. "I understand the commission chairs had a tough time scoring the essays," said Trustee James Dodge, chair of the village's Technology, Communications and Community Engagement Committee, who cochaired the event with McLaughlin.

The student Village Board members included Matt Hardt, a seventh grader at Jerling Junior High filling the role of mayor. Charlie Kane, a seventh grader at Century Junior High, served as Village Clerk. Trustee positions were filled by Robert Bums, a sixth grader at Jerling; Adam Harrington, a seventh grader at St. Michael School; Tommy Hayes, a seventh grader at Central Middle School; Hanna Lowry, a seventh grader at Jerling Junior High; Grace Wierus, a seventh grader at St. Michael and Stephanie Garoufalis, a seventh grader at Orland Junior High School. As for the Village administrator positions they were filled by Marilyn Sedlak, a seventh grader from Orland Junior High School, being village manager. Nicole Al-Khouri, a seventh grader at St. Michael, was named village attorney.

"A majority of them wrote about their admiration for the Police Department, describing how they feel safe in Orland Park and mentioning their DARE officers by name. Dennis McCarthy, a seventh grader at St. Michael School, served as police chief while Tianna Chlada, a sixth grader at Central Middle School, being public information officer. Jamie Zeiler, a seventh grader at Jerling Junior High School, was named public works director while William Davis, a sixth grader at Jerling, served as director of finance. Orland Junior High seventh graders Aislinn Mulvey and Libby Paulson were directors of development services and parks, respectively. Kristen Durkin, an eighth grader at St. Michael, served as director of recreation.

Before the Board of Trustees went into executive session the board approved a request to provide parkway trees on 142nd Street in the Heritage Subdivision. The one block segment of 142nd Street between John Humphrey Drive and Charleston Drive has a higher traffic volume than is normal for a residential setting and the addition of trees will help buffer the residents from local congestion. The trees will be a mix of maple and linden trees. The project will cost approximately $2,425.50 and the Tree Mitigation Account currently has a balance of $113,442.50.

Oak Forest will pay $165,000 for land

by Jan Glaz

The Oak Forest Board of Trustees agreed 100% to purchase $165,000 worth of property on May 22nd in an attempt to reinvest in Oak Forest and to send a positive message to the business community. No decision has been formulated concerning the building located on the property at 15426 S. Cicero, the vacant Numero Uno restaurant, until inspectors determine if the building is salvageable and then determine if the renovation cost is feasible.

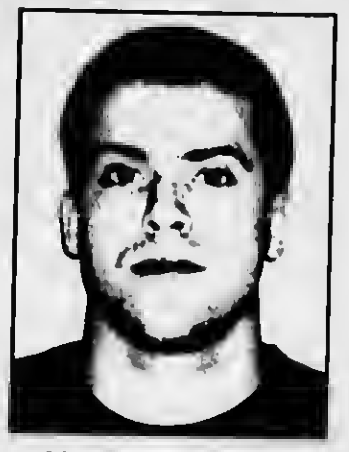
City Administrator Troy Ishler detailed the City's approval to authorize involvement in the South Suburban GIS Consortium. Ishler informed the Council that the South Suburban Mayor's and Managers applied for a grant that allowed them to put together a Consortium for any town that wanted to join. The Building Department, Public Works, and the Community Development Department all expressed interest due to the options available to the city. Public Works can map the entire infrastructure of Oak Forest in a GIS format: the Building Department will be able to put footprints of buildings and parcels that are vacant, out to the public. Ishler reminded city officials that this item was proposed at budget. The cost of the program is $8601.00 and will be split between the three Village Departments.

Super Radios: Before the meeting closed an agreement with Cook County for a Public Safety Interoperable Communications Radio Loan met with quick approval. City Administrator Troy Ishler announced that when the United States was attacked in 2001 it became clear that radio communication between governments was lacking. The County went to the Department of Homeland Security to secure a grant for Super Radios that would have the ability to transmit different signals from different communities, meaning that if something happened on a State level the City could communicate with the State and the County and local agencies. The radios would be passed out to Emergency Departments, the Police Department and the Public Works Department. "This is at no cost to the City, this is passed out by Cook County in a grant, and I think it's a great thing if any big disaster were to hit," said Ishler

Lieutenant David Griffin

Lieutenant Donald Knor

Firefighter Nick Smith



Firefighter Bill Turner

Oak Forest Fire Department promotes hires firefighters

The Oak Forest Fire Department is pleased to announce the promotions of David Griffin and Donald Knor to the rank of lieutenant, effective June 1. Griffin and Knor have been full-time firefighters with the department since 2001.

"Both of these guys display a great deal of dedication to the job," said Fire Chief TerryLipinski. "I truly believe they have the leadership and professionalism to excel as lieutenants."

The department also recently hired two full-time firefighters – Nick Smith and Bill Turner. While Turner is new to the department, Smith has served as a part-time firefighter since 2001. The promotions and new hires are a result of two recent retirements. Lieutenant Jim Scharnhorst in November 2011 and Lieutenant Tom Stotts earlier this month

PARKER HIGH SCHOOL REUNION

Graduates of Parker High School, formerly at 68th Street and Stewart Ave. in Chicago, have an Alumni Association for students who have celebrated their 50th graduation anniversary.

A luncheon will be held this year at noon, Sunday, September 30th at the Lexington House in Hickory Hills. Ronald Nelson, Class of 1954, is Chairman of the planning committee that meets the second Thursday of most months at 10:30 a.m. at the Oak Lawn Library, 9427 Raymond Ave. in Oak Lawn. All graduates welcome. For additional information call, O'Farrell, 773-779-3198 or Collins, 708-424-4009.

Village View

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SOUTH SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 13 | Number 11 | June 5, 2012

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

Palos Hills rejects restaurant proposal

by Matt Mayer

In a telephone conversation regarding a recent Palos Hills City Council meeting, the council voted against the Planning & Zoning Boards recommendation for a restaurant at 11050 Roberts Road that previously housed the Palos Health and Racquet Club. Hani Awadllah, owner of the building, submitted the proposal to the Planning and Zoning Board. Awadllah had planned on installing new stucco on the exterior of the building and resurfacing the parking lot, with an entranceway from Roberts Road. The restaurant would have served Mediterranean style food.

The building which is zoned residential was granted a special use for recreation. Mayor Jerry Bennett had concerns regarding the success of a restaurant at this site due to only having a driveway only accessible from Roberts Road, which is not visible from the street. Bennett asked the council to find another business for this site as soon as possible because demolition of the building would be costly to the city owned property.

Palos Heights approves 5k Run/Walk

by Matt Mayer

A recent Palos Heights City Council meeting commenced with Mayor Robert Straz presenting employee recognition award to Karl Schramm for 30 years of service as foremen of the Public Works Department. A request from the Giving Back Run, Inc. to conduct a 5k Run/ Walk between Harlem Avenue and 76th Avenue from 120th Street to 126th Street on Saturday, August 18, at 8:00 a.m. was approved. Proceeds from the race will be donated to local food pantries.

Other highlights: The city council approved a Roth contribution amendment to the deferred compensation plan for puhlic employees, 457 Government Plan and Trust Resolution as well as a request to appoint Kathy Jirk as the authorized agent for the Illinois Municipal Retirement fund. Ordinance No. 0-06-12, an ordinance calling in and providing for the payment and redemption prior to the maturity of certain general obligation library bonds, Series 2003 which was adopted at a city council meeting in March 2012 city council meeting, was approved as well as a motion to authorize the city attorney Tom Brown to draft an ordinance authorizing the re-issuance of bonds hy the library in the amount of $1 million hased upon their repayment of the difference between their existing principal balance and $1 million.

The city council approved the following close out of Motor Fuel Tax expenditures: R-09-12 for the 2000 Road Program for $126,283.56; R-10-12 for the 2001 Road Program for $82,446.25; R-11-12 for the 2002 Road Program for $85,201.20; R-12-12 for the 2004 Road Program for $144,495.19 and R-13-12 for the 2005 Road Program for $459,560.88. Resolution R-08-12 Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) expenditures for construction of a left turn lane on College Drive at Oak Park Avenue for $14,118.50. A contract for the 2012 Road Program was awarded to the lowest bidder, Brothers Asphalt Paving, Inc., for $244,332.70. A resolution R-05-12 to close Harlem Avenue for the Annual 4th of July Parade was also approved.

Palos Heights Parks and Recreation Summer Camps for all ages

Register your child for summer camp! The Palos Heights Parks and Recreation Department offers summer camps for children ages 3 to 6th grade! The camps begin June 11th and runs through August 3rd. Before and after care is also available.Registration is now open. For more information call the Palos Heights Parks and Recreation Department at 708-361-1807 or visit the Palos Heights Parks and Rec. Center at 6601 W. 127th Street. Palos Heights, IL 60463,

Attention all High School Seniors and College Students in Media Communications! Contact Annette for an internship in newscasting!

312-624-8996

What Happy events at the Worth Park District

Senior Lunch Bunch Take a trip with us to local restaurants each month. Enjoy a variety of options. Indulge in your own taste and spend as much or as little as you would like! Let us do the driving as you relax with friends! Menu will be available at time of registration. Pay for your portion of the check at time of trip. June 13th we will be going to Aodake in Romeoville, IL. from 10:30 until 2pm. For more information, please call the Worth Park District at (708) 448-7080 or visit www.worthparkdistrict.org

Senior Luncheon Calling all Seniors! Enjoy a delicious home-made lunch, bingo and conversation with old and new friends. Residents and non-residents are encouraged to attend. Please register and reserve your spot today! Senior Lunch will be on June, 20th from 12:00 until 2:00 PM. The cost is $ 8.00 preregistration and $ 12.00 at the door. The Terrace Centre is located at 11500 S. Beloit. For more information, please call the Worth Park District at (708) 448-7080 or visit www.worthparkdistrict.org

Pat McCaskey discusses "Chicago Bears History" Registration is not required but seating is limited. Pat McCaskey will come out to Terrace Centre in Worth on Wed., June 27th at 7pm. He will be discussing his book "Bear With Me: A family history of George Halas and the Chicago Bears". For more information, please call the Worth Park District at (708) 448-7080 or visit www.worthparkdistrict.org

Bicycle Tour of Worth Join our Museum Curator on your bicycle as we tour a number of "historic" locations in town. Meet in our historic district in Gale Moore Park. We will ride past 10-15 locations and make stops along the way. All participants should wear a helmet and bring a bottle of water. Register at Terrace Centre by June 14th. Tour will be held on Thursday, June 21st from 6-7:30pm. For more information, please call the Worth Park District at (708) 448-7080 or visit www.worthparkdistrict.org Worth Park District is located at 11500 S. Beloit (3 Blocks West of Harlem on 115th Street).

Make a craft for Dad for Father's Day at Palos Park Library

Honor dad on his special day by participating in a special Father's Day craft at the Palos Park Public Library on Friday, June 15th at 2 pm. Children ages 5 and up are invited to attend. The library is located at 12330 Forest Glen Blvd. Palos Park, IL

Please call the library at (708)448-1530 to register for this special craft session. Children and their families are welcome to enjoy a Saturday Movie Matinee at the Palos Park Public Library on Saturday, June 23rd at 11 am. The library is located at 12330 Forest Glen Blvd. Palos Park, IL.

We will be presenting a comedy animated film about a rat named Remy who dreams of becoming a great French chef despite his family's wishes. Remy's passion for cooking soon sets into motion a hilarious and exciting rat race that turns the culinary world of Paris upside down. Light refreshments will be served. Run time 111 mins. Call the library at 708-448-1530 to register for this special event

Chicago Ridge Village Clerk Charles Tokar

Meet and Know your Officials

Mr. Tokar is the elected Village Clerk and Budget Officer for the Village of Chicago Ridge born and raised in Chicago Ridge and attended Marist High School in Alsip, and Knox College in Galesburg, receiving his BS in Political Science and International Relations with Honors. He went on to graduate from Northern Illinois University Law School in 1978 and received his Masters Degree in Public Administration with Honors from Governors State University in 1992. After spending 12 years practicing law, and 14 years as a Village Trustee, Chuck was elected Clerk in 1989. As a member of the Municipal Clerks of Illinois for over 20 years, he has served on numerous committees. Read more on www.villageviewls.weebly.com

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B-MAC EDITION

Volume 6 | Number 11 | June 5, 2012

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Alsip's Boat Launch is sinking

by Jan Glaz

Mayor Patrick Kitching reprimanded Trustee James Quinn at the Village of Alsip Board Meeting held on May 21st, concerning the administration of Alsip's Boat Launch. The Mayor stated that in 2010, when Trustee McGreal was in charge of the Boat Launch, by this time of year, he had brought in $2,341.00; in 2011, Trustee Daddona at this time brought $1,662.00 and Trustee Quinn at the same time this year has brought in $344.00. "Is that a little bit of a political statement?" asked Quinn, in reference to having a Boat Launch. Kitching replied, "When you appoint yourself to a committee you would be expected to take care of the committee and you have not." The Mayor further explained that he had asked several times for people to be hired and that he has had complaints that people do not have access to the bathrooms, that there is no one in attendance to pay and envelopes are missing. Trustee Quinn felt that the Boat Launch was not a high priority and that the Board of Trustees did not want a Boat Launch committee, a view the Mayor does not support.

Alsip Finalizes an Agreement with AT&T: An Ordinance that was tabled at the May 7th meeting met with approval. Attorney Paul Stephenides reported that an agreement with AT&T was negotiated allowing for a guarantee to the residents that they would not be charged any rates greater than those in the village and the Chicago Metropolitan Area. Also, residents are free to go with other vendors but the village is locked in with AT&T. Attorney Stephenides said along with the contract AT&T is giving both Village Clubhouse's Free Television and Free Wireless for computers. Mayor Kitching mentioned that at this time there are no Televisions working in the either Clubhouse because Comcast went digital without distributing boxes, thus the village would have an additional expense. The start date for AT&T Services will be May 31st.

Before the meeting adjourned it was agreed to accept the village attomey's recommendation to intervene in the Property Tax Appeals filed on behalf of John Pavlopoulos (J&J Carbide and Tool), 5656 W. 120th, and MIRVAC Industrial Trust, 5621-5625 W. 115th; and not to intervene in the filing for Madison Realty Partners, 12550 S. Lombard.

Crestwood Mayor confirms opening of Ultra Foods

by Jan Glaz

On May 17th at the Village of Crestwood Board Meeting Mayor Robert Stranczek confirmed that the, much anticipated, opening of Ultra Foods is scheduled for June or July. Ultra Foods is an Indiana based grocery chain and they have been interested for many years in the former Dominick's Finer Foods location, 13180 S. Cicero Avenue. A winter 2012 opening lapsed into summer due to the massive reconstruction required to modernize the facility. It was reported by Crestwood village services director Bill Graffeo that Dominick's had stripped the store, when it closed five years ago. Grocery shopping in Crestwood has been limited to Target and Walmart.

Mayor Stranczek was pleased to inform residents that construction is under way at the vacant K-Mart building adjacent to the new Ultra Food Store. "There will be three different spaces. The first store permitted to be leased is a party store on the far south part, we're really close to a lease on the second part and we're working on the third. We're hoping, fairly soon, to announce the second store," said the Mayor.

A Special Use ordinance was granted for American Family Insurance for property located at 4721 Midlothian Turnpike, Suites 27 & 28 in Crestwood.

The Meeting adjourned after the Board of Trustees approved part-time summer help for the Public Works Department, ending September 09, 2012. The appointees are: Steven M. Gomboz and Giovanni Piediscalzi, at the rate of $9.50 per hour and Jonathan S. Oberheim, at $9.00 per hour.

Midlothian retains a "Second Set of Eyes"

by Jan Glaz

Two Resolutions were pulled from the consent agenda for a separate roll call at the Village of Midlothian Board of Trustees meeting May 23rd. Both Resolutions received a positive vote to authorize outside legal advice. in respect to the future renovation of properties at 147th and Cicero, the vacant home of Car Dealerships that closed during the downtum economy.

Mayor Terrence Stephens introduced the concept of another set of eyes in relation to hiring the legal firm of Klein, Thorpe and Jenkins and the legal firm of Mike Laube, of Laube Companies; each will provide Tax Increment Financing ("TIF") analysis and consulting services to Midlothian. Stephens clarified that James Lang, Village Administrator, also performed a TIF analysis on the properties, but due to the fact that Lang works for the village and the fact that this is approximately a 29 million dollar project it's important to have independent TIF experts ascertain that everything is accurate and correct, a step that will smooth the process when the village approaches bonding companies to sell bonds. "It's always good to have two sets of eyes," said the Mayor.

Noteworthy: The Village of Midlothian will proceed with the demolition lawsuit for 14715 Keystone, if no response is received by May 31st from Ricardo Rivera regarding bringing the property up to village code.

City Officials confirmed a list of expenditures before adjouming: A transfer case for Engine #2743 from Global Emergency Products, $1,305.53; two Grasshopper lawn mowers, $27,304.00; reimbursement of hotel fees to attend Debt Recovery Program in Springfield for Nancy Dowling, Judy Kelly and Chief Burke, $235.20 plus expenses; an agreement with American Appraisal Associates, Inc., to provide the Village with consulting services to conduct an appraisal, $2,100.00; and a Water Main Replacement invoice to J. Congdon Sewer Service Inc. $277.987.50.

The "Tree of Knowledge," a richly detailed mosaic by Julie Sklom and Regina Wiedlin was unveiled at the Blue Island Public Library.

Blue Island's events

Daddy Daughter Dance
Make lasting memories with your special princess. Dress up, take pictures and dance the night away! Enjoy dancing to all types of music, a dance contest, refreshments, and activities. All ages. $6
: Friday, June 15. 6 - 9 p.m.
: Blue Island Park District, Memorial Park Fieldhouse, 12804 S. Highland Ave., 708-385-3304

Drivin' the Dixie
Auto enthusiasts meet in Blue Island and head south on historic Dixie Highway (Western Avenue) through several towns. Similar to a scavenger hunt, participants visit points of interest along the route and get their "passports" stamped on the way to Momence. Cars range from Model A Fords to '60s muscle cars to hot rods and military vehicles.
When: Saturday, June 16, 7 - 9:30 a.m.
Where: Parking lot at Union & Western

Yard Sale on the Hill
This popular event includes garage and estate sales by 60-80 homeowners in an area from 127th south to Vermont and Western Avenue west to Highland.
When: Saturday, June 16, 8 a.m. - 3 pm
Where: First Ward, Blue Island

Summer Bash at the Lyric
This all-ages show features Five Guys Named Moe (including Gerry Burns from the BI School of Music) playing classic rock from the '70s, '80s and more!
Saturday, June 16, 7 p.m., $5
: The Lyric Theater, 12952 S. Western Ave.

Head-Shaving Event
This benefits the St. Baldrick's Foundation. Call Stephanie Natalino at 708-699-1378 for details.
: Saturday, June 23, 5 - 9 p.m., $5/$30
: Double Play, 13011 S. Western Ave.

Letter from Mayor Stranczek of Crestwood

It has been both a privilege and an honor serving as Mayor of the Village of Crestwood. I was born in Crestwood, and have lived in this town my entire life. My wife, Laurie and I have raised our children here and watched our town grow and prosper. Next April, the voters of Crestwood will go to the polls to elect a Mayor and Trustees t the Village Board. Over the past several months I have discussed my future plans with both my family and friends. I have decided that after serving 8 1/2 years as a Village Trustee and the last 4 1/2 years as the Mayor, that I will not be running for re-election next year.

I am making an announcement at this time to give all potential candidates ample time to explore their options to serve the residents of Crestwood to elective office. We live in a great Village and I am proud to have served the residents in elective office for the last 13 years.With that said, I am also looking forward to spending more time with my wife and kids, and in running my family business.

As I finish out the remainder of my term in office, I would like to give special thanks to our dedicated Board members and Village employees. Their hard work and professionalism have made my job much easier. We are blessed to have excellent department heads and great employees working for our Village. Our Police and Fire Departments do an outstanding job protecting us and our Clerks Office, Public Works Department and Recreation Center Staff are second to none.

Finally, I would also like to acknowledge all the volunteers, Senior Center and others who have helped make Crestwood what it is today. I thank you all for your service, cooperation and support.

Signed,
Robert Stranczek

House Passes Bill Manzullo coauthored to Reform Trade Promotion Efforts, Help Create U.S. Jobs

[WASHINGTON] – The U.S. House of Representatives unanimously approved legislation designed to strengthen U.S. trade promotion efforts to help American companies sell more of their goods overseas and create more American jobs.

The Export Promotion Reform Act (H.R. 4041) would integrate the Administration's export promotion agenda by giving the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee budget review authority over the numerous export promotion programs managed by the Administration.

The bill would also deploy U.S. Commercial Service personnel and budgets to help U.S. firms win sales in the markets with the best opportunities. H.R. 4041 requires performance assessments of the effectiveness of our embassies in carrying out commercial diplomacy and helping U.S. exporters. The legislation, co-authored by U.S. Reps. Howard Berman (D-CA) and Don Manzullo (R-IL), now heads to the Senate for consideration.

"Currently, each trade promotion agency submits its budget to the President and is judged on its own," Manzullo said. "The Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee should be able to review each agency budget first and determine how it fits in with other export promotion programs to implement the trade promotion agenda of the Administration. The TPCC could then recommend to the President an integrated trade promotion budget that works most efficiently on behalf of U.S. exporters to create American jobs."

Manzullo, who represents the heavy exporting 16th Congressional District of Illinois, introduced legislation in 2006 and 2008 to reform the TPCC and move its responsibilities to the Executive Office of the President. Many of those reforms were realized when the President formed the Export Cabinet in 2010 and adopted many of the reforms included in Manzullo's earlier bills.

In 2010, Manzullo joined with former Rep. Gabby Giffords in introducing legislation to remedy the current problem. Rep. Berman continued Giffords' legacy by joining Manzullo on the legislation the House approved it.

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We have found that through the years of publishing the readers are interested in general information and also local happenings within their community. Therefore because we are fully electronic, we will not be accepting faxed or mailed news releases.

Happy Father's Day!
Look on our website for coupons and specials for Father's Day!
www.villageviewls.weebly.com

ATTEMPTED CHILD ABDUCTION

On Monday, May 28, 2012, at approximately at 2:00 p.m., a dark skinned black man, between 40–50 years old, was driving in a red or maroon minivan heading southbound on Pulaski Road in the 9500 block when he approached a 14 year old girl and followed her in his car for four blocks. The suspect asked the girl to get into the van. The girl did not know the suspect and did not enter the van. The suspect drove away heading southbound.

Please keep in mind that school is out and we are entering summer vacation. The Oak Lawn Police Department wants to remind parents to reinforce the message that their children need to always walk in a group and always be aware of their surroundings.

If your children encounter or are approached by a suspicious stranger, they are to rebuke-any offers or inquiries and they should contact an adult immediately. They should not be afraid to call the police with their location and circumstances of the incident.

Agencies Have Five Business Days to Respond Pappas Issues FOIAS to 63 Taxing Agencies in Demand for Debt Data

Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas said today her office has sent Freedom of Information demands to 63 local units of government across the county which have failed to provide their latest financial information, including their total debt.

DOCUMENT SHREDDING
FUNDRAISER
TO BENEFIT
SPECIAL OLYMPICS
Saturday, June 23
11am - 3pm
Crestwood Police Department
13840 Cicero $10 for First Box, $5 Each Add'l Box
(Standard Record Size Storage Box)

Identity theft is one of the fastest growing non-violent crimes inthe United States. Nearly 9 million Americans have their identities stolen each year. Proper destruction of personal and confidential documents is a critical step in ensuring that individualsdo not become victims of identity theft.

Bring your old tax returns, business records, bank statements,cancelled checks, credit card statements, bills, receipts, and other documents containing personal information. All shredding will be done on sight while you wait. Shredding provided by Proshred Security.

"We are taking this extraordinary step of using the FOIA provision because government may not flout the law any more than an individual," Pappas said. "If anything, government should set the example in obeying the law." Under Cook County's Debt Disclosure Ordinance, passed by the County Board at Pappas' request, local taxing districts should have uploaded their 2011 debt and other financial data to Pappas' website by the last Tuesday in December. To date, 489 of 553 primary taxing districts had complied but 63 had not.

"This Office hereby requests a full, complete, unabridged and unedited copy of (your) most recent audited financial statement," the Treasurer's letter to the 63 non-compliant districts said, noting that the recipients had five business days to respond.

Pappas earlier reported that data from the compliant districts puts the known collective debt of governments in Cook County for 2011 at about $140 billion. Taxpayers can visit the Treasurer's website, cookcountytreasurer.com, or the County's new portal, cookcountypropertyinfo.com, to see the information, including from the districts that claim part of their own property-tax payments.

"As a matter of transparency and as a matter of law, these non-compliant agencies should send us their data so that the people can see how much their local governments owe, and we all can see the total debt across Cook County," Pappas said.

Under the state of Illinois' Freedom of Information Act, the taxing districts have five business days to respond to the FOIA request. Pappas said that whether a district responds to the letter or not, it will be considered non-compliant with the County law until it uploads its data to her website. Failure of a taxing district to respond appropriately to a FOIA request would be regarded as a denial which could be appealed to the Office of the Illinois Attorney General for review. A denial could result in civil suits for injunctive or declarative relief against the district and make it liable for attorney's fees and civil penalties up to $5,000.

Village of Orland Park Invites Amateur Gardeners to Enter Contest

The contest is open to residents of single-family homes within the corporate limits of the Village of Orland Park . Traditional and/or unusual gardens are welcome. Judging will be based on originality, creativity, and overall maintenance, as well as the use of native landscaping, color, texture, and the combination of plants and flowers used.

Applications are available at www.orland-park.il.us and at the Frederick T. Owens Village Hall, 14700 South Ravinia Avenue . The deadline to enter is June 29, 2012. Judging will take place in July/August with awards being presented at a Board of Trustees meeting in September

Volare in Chicago announces grand reopening

by Annette Dixon

As we all know there is always a connection with one another in what ever we do or who ever we meet. Recently I was invited to critique or to just to see the renovation that took place at Volare Italian Restaurant. Either way I had dinner there with a friend and was amazed at the decor of the place. I must admit, I heard it was a popular place, in fact Jenny McCarthy eats here when she is in town. Another southsider that loved Volare Restaurant was the deceased Matt Lamb.

Volare, the popular Italian restaurant always with a friendly atmosphere now represents the best of both worlds," said owner Benny Siddu. "It will still be the welcoming Italian neighborhood restaurant it has always been, serving authentic regional Italian cuisine" The new Volare is more spacious, twice as large with a bar in each spacious room and two open kitchens where guests can watch the food preparations.

The interior space is brand new and showcases warm colors and rich textures. Everything is new: floors, walls, ceilings, fixtures, tables and chairs. The color scheme features warm colors as one would find in an authentic Italian restaurant. A large collection of original paintings from celebrated artist Matt Lamb adorns the walls. The room is purposefully designed to be comfortable and unpretentious yet beautiful. Large windows in the main dining room open to the covered outdoor patio on warm weather days.

Our waiter was most gracious and served us elegantly. Marco Micheli, and his assistant both make themselves visible, they have a great repoire with the patrons.Before introducing the menu, lets talk about the Master Chef.

Edward Leonard, CMC, WGMC Chief Director of Culinary Operations Chef Leonard is one of only 71 master chefs in the United States and received his global master chef appointment in 2008. He has garnered more than 50 gold medals in cookery competitions in the USA and globally, being one of the very few chefs to win gold in every category including baking and pastry. Chef Leonard has received many major culinary awards, which include Santé Culinarian of the Year, Lifetime Achievement Award, Induction into Le Cordon Or Hall of Fame, General John D. McLaughlin AAC Educational award, Chairman's Medal from the American Academy of Chefs, Maître D' Honneur by the Antonin Careme Society, an honorary Doctorate from Johnson & Wales University for Culinary Arts.

Leonard also served concurrently served as President of the American Culinary Federation and Manager & Team Chef of ACF Culinary Team USA that won five championships and more than 25 gold medals. Internationally, he has earned The Medal of the German Chefs Association VDK; Crystal Chef Award Holland; Chef of the Year, TrustHouse Forte, London England; Gourmet Summit Gold Medal of the Singapore Chefs Association, and Grand Prize and French Medal by the Société Culianaire Philanthropique.

Currently he serves as Vice President /Corporate Chef, Le Cordon Bleu in North America. He has served as Executive Chef Director of F&B Operations at the famed Westchester Country Club in Rye, New York; National President of the American Culinary Federation; Chef Owner of Cantare Restaurant in Chicago; Executive Chef of Restaurant 64 Greenwich Ave, in Greenwich Connecticut, and VP/Corporate Chef, TrustHouse at Forte London England.

Chef Leonard believes in focusing on quality and creating a culture of excellence, with everyone working as a team. At Volare Ristorante Italiano, he respects the traditional foundation of the restaurant's menu while adding a modern approach that will only enhance this successful restaurant.

Our Selection at Volare

We tried the Pizza as an appetizer and the waiter wanted us to try a sampling. I was willing to try the Olives, and Artichoke pizza and my guest wanted the Ham and Sausage. I honestly would say, save the desire for pizza for a favorite Chicago Pizza Parlor. There are too many items on the menu to try other than pizza.

My favorite selection instead of salad or soup was Grigliata Mista, consists of Octopus, Sea Scallops, Calamari (the best I ever tasted) and shrimp with light blasamic vinaigrette.

Our Entre was Scaloppa DiVittello al limone, Rigatoni Alla Vodka, Salmonata, Fresh Salmon in a tomatoe cream sauce. Fresh Seabass with vegetable and potato.

After a hour and a half later of consuming the most delicious mouth watering fresh tasting food, we ordered dessert and expresso. Volare is a four star restaurant, which gives the impression of a neighborhood fixture, but its more than just that. It is the most fantastic experience I have ever had with food.

I suggest if you are a walk in, try the hour of 5:00 pm. It gets totally booked around 6:30pm. Look on the internet and make reservations, just to make sure you don't have a wait. There isn't much room for waiting space.

Volare has a place also in OakBrook, but I prefer Volare in Chicago at 201 East Grand Avenue, Chicago. The phone number is 312-410-9900.

If one is interested in visiting OakBrook Volare Italian Restaurant is located at 1919 South Meyers Rd., Oakbrook Terrace. They are open for lunch and dinner and the phone number is 630-495-0200.

Well you can always try both restaurants and let us know your reviews. We'll put them in the paper and on our website if you give us your permission.

Enjoy the best experience you will have with food as I just did at Volare Italian Restauraut.in Chicago at 201 East Grand.

Second Hand Treasures

Annual Giant Garage Sale Scheduled for June 9

Tinley Park, Illinois: One man's junk is another man's treasure. The Tinley Park-Park District's annual Giant Garage Sale will be held on Saturday, June 9 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Tony Bettenhausen Recreation Center Parking Lot, 8125 W. 171st Street, Tinley Park.

Admission is free, and over 50 exhibitors have registered to sell their spring cleaning fallout in the great tradition of the garage sale. This event will be held rain or shine. For more information, please call the Tinley Park-Park District at (708) 342-4200 or visit their web site at www.tinleyparkdistrict.org.

About the Tinley Park-Park District

The Tinley Park-Park District maintains over 420 acres of park lands and recreation facilities including its state-of-the-art Bettenhausen Recreation Center, Tinley Fitness a full-service fitness center and 40 community park locations. The Tinley Park-Park District was established in 1967.

Village of Evergreen Park News

Evergreen Park is getting new carts for your recyclables! These 95-gallon capacity carts will be distributed to all EP households by July. Recycling pickups will now be done on an every-other-week basis. Trash pickup, recyclable pickup and yard waste pickup will all be done at the curb; alley pickup will be discontinued by the end of the summer (this keeps the disposal costs low for you, the resident). If you have any questions, please call Land and Lakes Disposal at (708) 720-5100.

The 2012 Street Resurfacing Project continues. The main concentration of work is now east of Kedzie, just north of 99th Street. Please use caution in work areas. See maps on www.evergreenpark-ill.com under "Construction Updates".

The Village's 50/50 Public Sidewalk Replacement Program sign-up continues. Each square will cost the homeowner $59.25. Sign-up will continue through June 8 with the final payment due by June 15. Please call the Street Department at (708) 422-1562, or stop in the Village Hall.

Happy Fathers Day!

IT'S ONE THING FOR YOU
TO GET CAUGHT IN THE RAIN.

IT'S ANOTHER FOR EVERYTHING
IN YOUR HOUSE TO.

Just a few inches of floodwater can end up costing thousands of dollars in repairs, and flood damage isn't covered by homeowners insurance.

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"Mowimy po Polska!"

Smith CCRCs in June to aid caregivers coping with family members who have Alzheimer's and dementia

Smith Crossing and Smith Village hold free support groups Southwestern Chicago and suburban families and caregivers of seniors living with Alzheimer's disease or dementia can meet with others who have the same concerns at a free meeting either Thursday, June 7, at Smith Crossing in Orland Park or Tuesday, June 12, at Smith Village in Chicago's Beverly neighborhood. Both begin at 6:30 p.m.

The hour-long gatherings at both continuing care retirement communities will be open to questions and comments from the assembled group, and light refreshments will be served. On June 7, Smith Crossing's activity director Dana Mahler will facilitate the discussion at 10501 Emilie Lane in Orland Park (enter at 104th Avenue and 183rd Strect).

To reserve a place, please call 708-326-2300. June 12, Smith Village's memory support coordinator Diane Morgan will lead the meeting at 2320 W. 113th Place in Chicago. To reserve a seat, please call 773-474-7300.

About Smith Senior Living Smith Senior Living, a not-for-profit organization serving older adults, sponsors Smith Village in Chicago's Beverly neighborhood and Smith Crossing in Orland Park, Ill. These continuing care retirement communities (CCRCs) are the only ones located in the Southwest sector of metropolitan Chicago. An innovative leader in providing the finest services and care for seniors, Smith established its first community in 1924, on the same city block where Smith Village stands today. Both CCRCs provide spacious independent living residences, and apartments for assisted living, as well as memory support and skilled nursing care. In addition, they offer short-term rehab programs for residents and others who have had surgery or a medical incident. For more information about how Smith Senior Living can help seniors enjoy their retirement, contact Smith Crossing at 708-326-2300 or SmithCrossing.org and Smith Village at 773-474-7300 or SmithVillage.org.

CONGRATULATIONS
TO CLASS OF 2012
FROM PALOS TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

10802 South Roberts Road
Palos Hills, IL.
708-598-4418

Letter to the Editor

Letter to the Editor from Mother

The legislature is considering cutting the Medically Fragile and Technology Dependent Waiver program. It's a critical program that provides us with specialty nursing care, which allows me to keep my daughter living at home instead of life in an ICU or institution.

As a mother you care for your children, doing all the things a parent is expected to do for their 8-year-old child. Now, imagine after your daily routine, you spend the night making sure she's still breathing, checking her machines, monitoring her temperature, giving her oxygen, suctioning her trach, adjusting her ventilator, and trying to get a little rest too. This makes for a long night, and even longer days.

The MFTD waiver keeps our family together and allows me to spend a few hours a day with Kira's twin brother- away from machines and medical equipment. Because of the program, we have time to teach them things, help with homework, and most importantly spend time together.

We absolutely need this waiver to keep our daughter at home, with us, where she belongs. She is a bright, inquisitive, little girl who has a desire to learn and create. If we were to lose the waiver and the nursing hours it provides us, there's no guarantee that we'd be able to keep her at home with us. So instead of attending regular school with her peers, growing up with her family, and being a regular 8 year old kid (who just happens to have a tracheostomy), she would have to live in a hospital at a much higher cost to the state.

I am begging our lawmakers not to forget about families like mine, our well-being depends on it.

Cindy Mammoser
Chicago

Helping Teens Financially Means More Than Handing Them Money 5 Tips for Turning Adolescents into Fiscally Smart Adults

As children blossom into young men and women, most insist on planning and running their own lives. Parents worry about all the basic essentials for their kids' independent living, like housing, eating properly, staying warm, being careful at night and more. But most parents forget to teach their youngsters one of the most important lessons of all – financial responsibility. The resulting turmoil can spell disaster for a child's future.

Consider this: The average young adult amasses $45,000 in debt by the time they turn 29, according to a recent PNC Bank report.

"This generation of 20-somethings was raised during an economically-thriving period," says financial expert Mark Hansen, author of Success 101 for Teens www.success101forteens.com. "Undisciplined spending habits, student and car loans, and a tough job market have stymied their financial growth. Perhaps the worst culprit is financial ignorance, but we can count this as a lesson for future 20-somethings."

For young people, organizing finances can be intimidating to the point of prohibitive, he says.

"We need to have a curriculum in schools, from kindergarten through 12th grade, that ensures our kids graduate with financially literacy," he says. "From balancing a checkbook to understanding what it means to pay – and earn – interest, kids need basic money management skills to survive in the world, and most aren't getting them."

Hansen says all teens should know and practice so they can control their financial destinies:

• Saving for dreams – the three-envelope method: Use the first envelope for your day-to-day expenses: gas or lunch money. Pause before blowing this money at the movie theater or a fast-food restaurant! Envelope No. 2 is for short-term goals, which might be clothing or a new laptop. The third envelope is for long-term goals such as a car, college or a "future millionaire club" fund.

• How to create a budget: A budget lets us know what's possible, and not possible, with money. There are six steps to creating a budget. 1. List all of your expenses. 2. List all income. 3. List monthly expenses. 4. Add up these lists separately. 5. Tweak your budget so you can meet your expenses with money left over for savings. 6. Review your budget every week.

• How to set and follow through on goals: First, figure out what your current finances are, then determine what they will be in the future — one year out, then two years out, then four years later, etc. How will you get to your one- or two-year goal? You need a plan, and most of the time that means either earning more money, spending less, or a combination of the two. Finally, you have to stick to your plan in order for it to work.

• Understanding interest rates, such as credit cards: Interest is a fee paid for using someone else's money. Simple interest is straightforward: 5 percent accrued in your bank account with $100 yields $5 in interest at the end of the year. Compound interest, however, means ever-increasing amounts. This is crucial to understanding debt you may take on from lenders. Know what you are borrowing, and the terms thereof. Just as your money can work for you in a bank account, money borrowed can work against you if it is not paid back in a timely manner.

• How to write checks and balance a checkbook: These days, it's easier than ever to review accounts online, which automatically tracks exchanges. HOWEVER, banks do make mistakes, which is why it's wise to track your accounts independently. Ask. Don't be embarrassed. Banks are putting a premium on service and want to establish a positive relationship with young customers. If you have a question, speak to someone at the bank. As you take control of your money, you'll also take control of your life.

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VASA PARK

Seventh Annual Scandinavian Midsammar Celebration & NEW Viking Family Campout Saturday, June 23, 2012
Come Celebrate Summer the Scandinavian Way at Vasa Park
Plus Enjoy NEW "KUBB" Game Demonstration & Instruction
Presented by SCANDINAVIAN PARK, INC. NFP
Park opens at 1:30 p.m. - Activities start at 2:00 p.m.
at VASA PARK, Route 31, South Elgin, Illinois
(7 Miles South of I 90 Northwest Tollway & 5 Miles North of IL Rt. 64 North Ave.)
Bring a Picnic Basket and Your Own Beverages for All Day & Evening Fare! Enjoy Food for Sale by Various Scandinavian Organizations. Your favorite folding chairs, tables, blankets & camping tents are welcome.
Come enjoy the natural beauty of Vasa Park's meadows, majestic trees, and riverside setting.
NEW THIS YEAR: Overnight Tent Camping, Scandinavian Campfire Music Jam (Bring Your Guitar), Viking Campout Storyteller & Torchlight Procession, Scandinavian Bingo, Horse-Drawn Wagon & Scandinavian Movie
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Air Tran flight from Midway to Branson is about an hour and a great experienec.

Branson is only an hour from Chicago

The newest is the Branson Airport, privately owned, which opened in 2009 and provides low-cost flights to Branson on AirTran. I noticed on the 10 mile trip to Branson, there may be perfect lodging for the avid golfer.

In May there were $69 one way fares to Branson from Midway Airport. Check out specials and plan your trip, it was so easy, even security was finally a pleasure to go through it. I would suggest a two hour schedule before flight time. I may have just lucked out. As usual I was at the last minute, but made my ten minute before boarding time.

Flight attendants were courteous, but Air Tran isn't Southwest, it's a wholly owned subsidiary of Southwest Airlines, and the business person loves the prices, even at full price.

Branson is a great family vacation value no matter how you get here and getting here has never been easier and less expensive.

The rustie outside looks much more attractive and classier inside. I enjoyed the friendly atmosphere in this airport and it took less time for security when leaving Branson. FlyBranson.com or 1-888.FLY.BKG1 or 1-800-359-2541

After realizing how small the airport was, I realized it was just steps before I was at Enterprise getting my rental car. I have never been treated so kindly, I had a great choice of new cars and leaving the airport again, I crossed the street and there they were getting my car lined up ready for me to drive out of the airport. Being alone for the first time at that airport was so easy, I wouldn't ever drive to Branson again, I would check the specials and get my tickets for flying again.

After checking into the Radisson Hotel Branson, now I able to sit down and plan an itinerary for the next three days. I made reservations for Andy Williams Moon River Grill. It was conveniently close to the Andy Williams Theater. The Moon River Grill offers a variety of menu options at very affordable prices. The food is fresh and the salads are wonderful.

A must sec for Places and events when visiting Branson.

Titanic Museum

Showboat Branson Belle

Sight and Sound Theatres

Hughes Brothers Shows. This is a REAL family affair starting with the original Hughes who started the clan.

Jim Stafford Show Jim Stafford is so funny and so musical.

Years ago. my aunt use to travel every year with her husband on a weekly vacation to Branson. I never knew why they wouldn't travel elsewhere.

Several years ago, I realized there is so much to see and such good entertainment, that it would be impossible to see everything in one week.

So this was the second time that I visited Branson, so hopefully again, I can describe more places to see and also more event to cover.

After driving around the city I realized that there is more to see in the Ozarks then just Branson. Check it all out and review it for us. We will put your story on line or in the paper.

Maria High School student newspaper staff earns awards

The staff of the Maria High School student newspaper, The Maria Herald, recently received awards in the 2012 Illinois Journalism Education Association (IJEA) Newspaper Contest. In the division for schools with an enrollment of less than 500, The Maria Herald staff was awarded 2nd Place in Overall Newspaper and 3rd Place in Overall Design.

Meanwhile, for individual awards, senior Stephanie Rodriguez of Gage Park received the most with 2nd Place in Front-Page Design and 3rd Place awards in News Writing, Editorial Writing and Column Writing. Senior Ashanti McCall of Chicago Lawn gained 3rd Place in Feature Writing and Honorable Mentions in Editorial Writing and Column Writing. Senior Sara Calvillo of Chicago Lawn received 3rd Place for Best Photograph; sophomore Yaneth Farias of West Lawn gained 3rd Place in Sports Story; junior editor Elizabeth Rodriguez of Scottsdale received Honorable Mention for Feature Writing.

Other members on the 2011-2012 staff were Rukayat Bello of Clearing, Karina Garcia of Brighton Park, Adriana Hernandez of Chicago Lawn, Jacquelin Maciel of Chicago Lawn, Joslyn McNealy-Paul of Ashburn, Amparito Martinez of Brighton Park, Elizabeth Ocampo of Chicago Lawn and Amanda Marie Thompson of Calumet City.

Ashanti McCall and Stephanie Rodriguez were Co-Editors-in-Chief of the 2011-2012 Maria Herald, and Frances Tenbroeck was the adviser.

For information about Maria High School, please call 773-925-8686 or visit us at www.mariahighschool.org.

A restaurant that uses their market in Westmont

by Annette Dixon

Recently I had the previlege to attend several restaurants, but I was most fasinated with Bakersfield, 330 East Ogden in Westmont.

Not only was it a great restaurant with Brian Wright as Executive Chef, but they own Standard Market which is across the street from Bakersfield, which also has Standard Grill for a light lunch.

BAKERSFIELD showcases steaks butchered in-house and prepared on a wood-fired grill. Signature entrees include a Barrel-Cut Filet paired with Wilted Spinach and Red Bliss Smashed Potatoes, the 72-Hour Marinated Cajun Ribeye accompanied by a Loaded Baked Potato, the Five-Spice-Rubbed Rotisserie Chicken served with Wild Rice Salad, and Stuffed Gnocchi and Meatballs. Additionally, seasonal whole fish will be flown in from around the world to be hand-filleted.

Appetizers include Crispy Thai Shrimp, Smoked Salmon, and Crispy Rice Sushi. Hearty entrée-style salads such as the Crab Cake Salad and the Four Farmers Grilled Chicken Salad, and sandwiches like the Lobster Knuckle Sandwich and Mustard-Honey Chicken Sandwich, will satisfy for both lunch and dinner. Sumptuous house made desserts include Fried Oreos and Tres Leches.

Whether guests choose to relax on the fully furnished patio featuring a fireplace, fire pit, and communal table; watch the action from the bar-height Chef's Table looking into the open kitchen; dine in the main area featuring a floor-to-ceiling glass-enclosed wine room; or enjoy handcrafted cocktails at the well appointed bar, BAKERSFIELD creates an inviting atmosphere.

BAKERSFIELD provides exceptional food and service and is an ideal restaurant for business lunches, catching up with friends, or dining as a family. Hours are Sundays through Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. For reservations, call 630.568.3615 or visit www.bakersfieldrestaurant.com.

edible Chicago magazine is a member of Edible Communities

by Annette Dixon

It is very unusual to have newspapers introduce magazines and write about them especially if they are not owned by the publisher. I was quite interested in this magazine because if has a colorful cover and the paper is 60 lb. weight paper, it's not the usual glossy paper.

More importantly, every page is in color with information about seasonal recipes, garden tips, calendar of events, from the good earth, incredibly edible, liquid assets, dine and drink guide and edible ink.

My first introduction to the spring 2012 issue was at one of the events.

On May 24th there was a celebration of beer, food and stories at Beer Bistro at 1061 W. Madison in Chicago. The event was free. There are usually four per events per month in various locations.

June 10 Slow Food Chicago 4th annual Pig Fest located at Goose Island Beer Company, featuring local chefs, beer, fresh food and local pork. Benefits non-profit Slow Food Chicago. Information and ticket purchase visit slowfoodchicago.org or read online at ediblechicago.com

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Moraine Valley students awarded at Skyway competitions

Several students from Moraine Valley Community College won awards at the Illinois Skyway Collegiate Conference festivals for writing, art, jazz, and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) during the 2011-12 academic school year.

"These festivals are an opportunity for students at eight community colleges to compete beyond athletics and explore other academic areas," said Lisa Kelsay, assistant dean of Liberal Arts and the Moraine Valley co-curricular representative to the Illinois Skyway Collegiate Conference.

The Jazz Festival was held at McHenry County College in Crystal Lake last October. Musicians were judged as a group and as soloists. Moraine Valley students who received an Outstanding Soloist distinction were Carl Coan, of Michigan City, Indiana, on tenor saxophone; Bill Foss, of Melrose Park, on trumpet; Ken Cheney, of Midlothian, on trombone; and Raymond Adams, of Chicago, on guitar. Pianist Kathy Schober, of Orland Park, and drummer Johnny Poindexter, of Chicago, both received Honorable Mentions.

At the Writers Competition and Festival held at Elgin Community College in December, Valerie Nowicki, of Midlothian, won second place for her poem "Tucked Behind the Christmas Decorations." This festival features over 80 works in the areas of poetry, creative nonfiction, short fiction, and drama.

The Art Show was held at Morton College in Cicero from March 16 to April 7. Each school submitted 25 pieces of work, and the juror decided which pieces went into the show.

The winners were then selected from that group. Students could receive the Best in Show (top winner) or Awards of Excellence. Moraine Valley students whose work was selected to be showcased were Jason Blohm, of Tinley Park, for a woodblock print "Tree of Life" and his ink, records or silkscreen project "Binary Groove;" Anthony Cox, of Worth, for his Van Dyke Brown print "Van Gogh Dies" and his silver gelatin print "War Games;" Andrew Hall, of Orland Hills, for a cardboard creation "Cardboard Chair;" and Kevin Jaderberg, of Chicago, for a cyanotype "Snapshot in Cyan."

The STEM Competition was held at Moraine Valley Community College in April. Each college submitted up to 10 posters showcasing their students' work. The posters were judged by 12 scientists from Argonne National Laboratory. In the Earth Science/Physical Science/Chemistry category Carla McLaurin, of Blue Island, Kalem Elam, of Oak Lawn, and Melissa Beltran, of Blue Island, won second place for "Bottoms Up: Safety and Health Awareness Against Human Pathogen Residue During Toilet Use," and Ashley Morris, of Orland Park, and Tiwana S. Morrison, of Justice, won third place for "Can a Common Food Additive Assist Coastal Communities During Environmental Disasters?". In the Technology/Physics/Computer Science/Math/Engineering category, Alexander Papak, of Orland Hills, Ivan Chow, of Evergreen Park, Johnson Chan, of Hometown, Kyriakos Anastasopoulos, of Orland Park, Patrycja Guza, of Justice, and Rohail Kidwai, of Orland Park, won first place for "Sparking Simplicity: Constructing and Testing the Effects of Several Variables on the Performance of Lord Kelvin's Water Generator."

Judy Lei Music School summer school program now open

Judy Lei's music program has educated thousands of young Chicagoland musicians over the last 20 years, as they have learned to play the violin, viola, cello, guitar and piano. Mrs. Lei makes learning instruments fun with a variety of music ranging from Classical, Irish Dance, Pop, Jazz, The Blues and more.

With no limit to the reach Mrs. Lei will go to keep her students interest, this spring, in concert, her students performed music ranging from Vivaldi to Led Zeppelin, and Bach to The Beatles. The parents and family just rocked in their seats to tears.

She has had a deep involvement in a great number of Catholic school sand created her Chicago Southside Youth String Orchestra. The orchestra has an open door to all young musicians who wish to immerse themselves in a youth orchestra.

Now is the perfect time to enroll in a wonderful summer program. Courses available include a wide range of fun educational topics. There are group and private lessons in all instruments as well as a Drummer's Club, Jazz Ensemble, and Voice training. Remember " Orchestra Is A Team Sport"

Have a fun and productive music learning experience at the Judy Lei Music School located at 9500 S Avers 2nd floor; Evergreen Park. For more information stop by or call 847-208-6098.

ST. NICHOLAS OPA Fest GREEK FESTIVAL 2012

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OPA Fest is our annual Greek Festival at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Oak Lawn. It will take place on Father's Day Weekend. There will be delicious, homemade Greek favorite foods & pastries, carnival rides & games, music, dancing, and Greek dance performances. Bring the whole family and enjoy the day Friday, June 15th Carnival only 5 until 10 pm, Saturday, June 16th, 4pm to 11 pm, Sunday, June 17th, FESTIVAL & Carnival 3pm to 10 pm. Admission is $2.00 (children under 12 free). 10301 S. Kolmar Ave., Oak Lawn, IL. 708/636-5460 stnicholasil.org

Oak Lawn Garden Walk

On Sunday, June 24th, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
You can enjoy 5 local gardens with refreshments served.
We also having a free raffle for a deluxe gift basket.
Admission $8.00 donation
To purchase tickets, you can call 708-363-2371 or go in person to the following business:
James Saunoris & Sons Nursery - 6000 W. 111th St.
Village Green Gazebo on June 24th from noon to 4: p.m.
For further information go to our web site
www.oaklawngardenclub.org

Visit our New Website and On Line Newspapers,

www.villageviewls.weebly.com.

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JUNE 22-23-24, 2012
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Moraine Valley offering new child, teen classes at Valley Learning Center

The Valley Learning Center at Moraine Valley Community College is the perfect place for kids ages 4 and up to have safe fun while exploring their educational and personal interests during the summer break from school. These new classes are being offered in June and July.

Sign up for Teacher, Teacher to learn what a teacher does, including lesson plans, coordinating subjects and planning activities on a daily basis. Kids ages 12 to 15 can practice competitive speaking and debate during Introduction to Public Speaking, and 11- to 14-year-olds can use several media to make an exhibit to share with the class in Promote Your Favorite Topic.

Get hands-on in the Creative Jewelry Making-Teens class, create themes and special memories in Designing Your Own Scrapbook, or use writings, pictures and drawings to Make Your Own Book.

Kids can participate in more activities by using a variety of materials to Make Your Own Monster or Create Your Own Mask using traditional and nontraditional items. In The Art of Puppetry class, students will build puppets in several styles. Design a robot, superhero or cartoon character in the Recycled 3-D Projects class, or dive into the world of the sea with a number of hands-on activities in the Sea Treasure's class.

Girls ages 7 to 9 can go back in time to learn about history and character by making crafts, games and fashion with their American Girl doll in the American Girl Time class. Grades 1 and 2 students can work on activities, games and designing a hat in the Have Fun with Dr. Seuss class.

For more information on the Valley Learning Center offerings or other noncredit courses at Moraine Valley, call the college's Corporate, Community and Continuing Education area at (708) 974-5735, or visit morainevalley.edu/ccce.

Sessions vary in length and cost, and some classes require textbooks that can be purchased in the Moraine Valley Bookstore. Registration for Valley Learning Center classes is underway. Students can register in person at the Registration Office, located in S125 on campus, 9000 W. College Pkwy., Palos Hills, by calling (708) 974-2110 (TT/TDD for the hearing impaired 708-974-9556), or online morainevalley.edu.

Click on Register for Noncredit Classes under Academic Focus, then Click Here and then Search, Register and Pay for Noncredit classes.

MEANY TO BE HONORED

Commissioner Kathleen Therese Meany of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago will be honored on Thursday, June 14, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Parthenon Restaurant, 314 South Halsted Street.

Meany has been a dedicated MWRD Commissioner and public servant since first being elected in 1990. In 1994 she was elected Vice President of the District.

Commissioner Kathleen Therese Meany currently serves as Chairman of the Ethics Committee, Public Information and Education. She is Vice Chairman of Finance and also Labor and Industrial Relations.

Prior to Commissioner Meany's election in 1990 to the Board of Commissioners, her work experience has been in the field of education at both the elementary and college levels. Meany holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education from Roosevelt University and a Master's degree in Public Administration from Harvard University 's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

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After 20 years of dedicated service, Oak Lawn Public Library Director Dr. James B. Casey has announced his retirement, effective the end of June.

Oak Lawn Public Library Director Dr. James Casey Announces Retirement

Throughout the past 20 years, Dr. Casey formulated and implemented the library's long-range plan; encouraged greater use of technology in library services, including the installation of the network and development of the library website; procured revenue and numerous grants; promoted the development of the Computer Center, Art Gallery and Local History Unit; and coordinated and completed several significant building and remodeling projects.

"I am very grateful for all of the support and encouragement so many people have given to me over the past 20 years, during which time I have had the great privilege of serving as the Director of our Oak Lawn Public Library," Casey said. "It has been the most rewarding and gratifying period of my life."

One of Dr. Casey's proudest achievements of his tenure is the great value Oak Lawn residents receive from their public library for their hard-earned tax dollars.

"Our library has embraced change and continued to enhance services every year while maintaining a balanced and responsible budget," Casey said. Dr. Casey points to the "increasing tempo of technological change" that offers many opportunities for improved service, such as eBooks, Media On Demand, Freegal Music Service, databases and a mobile website. "We had to invest in these new services while maintaining the more traditional offerings within budget limitations," Casey said. "Since we had to prioritize and invest our resources carefully, Long Range Planning has helped to focus our efforts."

Dr. Casey supported the library membership in ALA, ILA, SWAN and RAILS. As he advanced the Oak Lawn Library on numerous levels, he planned and participated in meetings among Local State Legislators, Library Administrators, Community Library Foundation Board members and Chamber of Commerce leaders.

He also maintained a positive working relationship with the Library Board, Friends of the Library and the Village of Oak Lawn. Before joining the Oak Lawn Library in 1992, Dr. Casey, who earned a Ph.D. in Librarianship from Case Western Reserve University, served as Director of the Pickaway County District Public Library in Circleville, Ohio.

His other previous experience includes a year as head librarian at the Ohio Historical Society, several years as head reference librarian at Western Reserve Historical Society and a period as assistant reference librarian at Cleveland Public Library. Dr. Casey holds a Master of Arts degree in History from Cleveland State University and a Master of Library Science from State University New York at Geneseo.

In addition to traveling, reading and relaxing, Dr. Casey and his wife, Diane, plan to explore opportunities for volunteer service in the church and in the community.

"Working with bright, engaged and committed Trustees and Staff has been exhilarating," Casey said. "I'm sure many exciting challenges and accomplishments await in the next years and decades as the Oak Lawn Library continues to improve."

Elks Rest Mt. Greenwood Cemetery

In1881 Charles I. Yeager, was the first Elk Member buried at Mt. Greenwood Cemetery , and in 1882 the "Elks Rest" was dedicated. Mt. Greenwood was just 14 miles south of the downtown area of Chicago along the Grand Trunk Railroad. Over 200 Elks and 2000 well-wishers attended the unveiling of the bronze elk. "The monument, which was erected in the center of the lot, is both unique and artistic and one which would stand permanent in any of the older and more elaborately ornamented cities of the dead" according to a reporter from the Chicago Sun in 1882. The original price of the cemetery property was $900.

In 1993, Past President Dan Raggio found the "Elks Rest" to be in poor condition. At that time Chicago South Elks members raised money to replace the Elk statue and improve the site. There was also an unpaid maintenance balance near $12,000.00. Current Chicago South Elks President Larry Nolan along with the Illinois Elks Association made it their passion to eliminate this long time debt and restore the condition of the Elk statue and cemetery grounds, so, to maintain the history and respect to our brothers and sisters who are laid to eternal rest.

This renovation project was designed to help those Elk members that are less fortunate.

The Illinois Elk Association along with the "Elks Rest" Committee and Chicago South Elks are here to provide a dignified final resting place to assist and maintain the honor and dignity of the Order.

Please join us in this historic event, on Sunday, June 10, 2012 11:00 am at Mt. Greenwood Cemetery , 2900 W 111th Street , Chicago , IL we will be re-dedicating our newly restored monument and grounds, because "Living or Dead, an Elk is Never Forgotten Never Forsaken."

No matter where you go in this country an Elks Lodge is right around the corner. With more than 850,000 members and 2000 lodges nationwide, Elks are providing charitable services that help build strong communities.

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The Riverfront Theatre is showcasing outstanding entertainment

SPIRIT OF THE DANCE is one of the biggest dance shows in the world. It has smashed box office records in over 20 countries, and has won more awards than any other dance production.

The Riverfront Theater, 650 West Chicago Ave., is Chicago's newest destination for music, theater, dance, spectacles and more. Now in its second year, the 70-foot tall, 20,000 square foot temperature-controlled tent is the cornerstone of a 80,000 square-foot entertainment complex that includes dining and refreshment options located on the scenic Chicago River and easily accessible by public transportation.

The world champion dancers of SPIRIT OF THE DANCE deliver powerful, show stopping rhythms of Irish Dance combined with the passionate Latino rhythms of Tango, Flamenco and Red-Hot Salsa to produce a thrilling, heart-pounding production that the International Post describes as "The World's Greatest Irish Dance Show July 11 until July 15, 2012 Call (888) 556-9484 or visit www.RiverfrontTheater.com.

Pine Box Theater Company presents The Jammer

Many remember the days of Roller Derby entertainment which is mostly all show and all action, well The Jammer gives us the same entertainment. In just one hour, this well written play, packs in multiple roller-derby sequences, a riot, a roller-coaster ride, vomit, spit, blood, sex and love. In short, it's the King Lear of roller derby plays.

Playwright Rolin Jones received a Fringe First Award for Best New Writing at 2004's Edinburgh Fringe Festival for The Jammer. Pine Box Theater Company's Artistic Director is Vincent Teninty, who has been with Goodman and Steppenwolf in some excellent plays. He gave this play his utmost attention inorder to keep the audience sitting and the edge of their seat.

The Jammer currently is performing until July 1, 2012 in Chicago. Tickets for THE JAMMER are on sale at www.pineboxtheater.org or by calling the Athenaeum Box Office at (773) 935-6875. The Athenaeum Box Office is open from 12 pm until last curtain, Wednesdays through Sundays, tickets are priced at $28.

Cirque Shanghai returns to Chicago's Navy Pier with a magnificent new show "Cirque Shanghai: Year of the Dragon"

"Cirque Shanghai: Year of the Dragon" is for all ages, featuring performers direct from China who are leaders in their craft of tumbling, juggling, balancing and more.

This year's production features an incredible line up of awe-inspiring acts, including favorites such as Bike Balances and Hoop Diving, as well as an all-new Group Chair Stack, Teeterboard act and the Wheel of Death. China's finest daredevil motorcycle troupe,

"Imperial Thunder," returns with not two, not four, but five motorcyclists riding at break-neck speed within a steel globe - more than ever before in this death-defying feat.

Directed by Miao Miao Chen, "Cirque Shanghai: Year of the Dragon" is presented in this exclusive U.S. engagement by Navy Pier in conjunction with International Special Attractions, Ltd. (ISA) production headquarters in Shanghai, China.

The production will run through September 3, 2012 (Labor Day), rain or shine, at the Navy Pier Pepsi Skyline Stage, the 1,500-seat, canopied, open-air theater on Navy Pier, 600 E. Grand Ave.

Tickets are available by calling 800-745-3000 or www.ticketmaster.com/shanghai

The Marvin Gaye Story at the Black Ensemble Theater

The Marvin Gaye Story will be presented at the new Black Ensemble Theater Cultural Center, with a live orchestra at 4450 N. Clark Street in Chicago until July 29. Ticket prices are $55 on Wed., Thurs. and Sat. Matinees and $65 on Fri. Sat. Evenings, and Sun. Matinees, 10% discount for students, seniors and groups. Call the boxoffice 773-769-4451 or buy online at www.ticketmaster.com.

Marvin Pentz Gaye Jr. is considered to be one of the greatest talents to come out of the Motown dynasty, with a career spanning over three decades. His sound began with Doo Wop in the '50s, and moved to Rhythm and Blues in the '60s, political awareness in the '70s, and sophisticated soul in the '80s. Some of his greatest contrihutions include "I Heard It Through The Grapevine," "What's Going On," and "Inner City Blues," as well as numerous hits from his partnership with Tammi Terrel such as "All I Need To Get By," "Ain't No Mountain High Enough," and "If This World Were Mine." He was also the winner of two Grammy Awards including Best Vocal Perfomance for "Sexual Healing" in 1983.

Marvin Gaye's life was plagued with depression and drug addiction and ended in tragedy on April 1, 1984 when he was shot and killed by his own father. The Marvin Gaye Story will reveal his struggles while also honoring his vast contributions to the music industry and the world. To many, Marvin Gaye represents the ability to face the worst of life's ndversities and still accomplish great success.

"With The Marvin Gaye Story (Don't Talk About My Father Because God Is My Friend), Black Ensemble is producing our first World Premiere since moving into our new home earlier this year. Throughout the process, Jackie Taylor has conducted vast research which included working with Jan Gaye (who was the second wife of Marvin Gaye and mother of Nona and Frankie Gaye) helping give ample attention to his story with honor and accuracy. We have assembled a fantastic team of cast and designers, including Rashawn Thompson, a product of BE's educational outreach program, who stars as Marvin Gaye, along with some of Black Ensemble seasoned actors. We are also using projections, designed by Mike Tutaj, throughout the production to create a sense of time, place and relevancy of Marvin's messages in today's world."

Written & Directed by: Black Ensemble Theater Founder and CEO Jackie Taylor

Choreographer: Rueben Echoles

Musical Director: Robert Reddrick

Featuring: Rashawn Thompson portrays Marvin Gaye and is an excellent singer and actor, it was great to see him in this lead. Yahdina Udeen (Alberta Gaye - Mother), She too has given her heart and soul to portray the mother. Donald Barnes (Marvin Gaye Sr. Father), Lawrence Williams (Frankie Gaye), Rueben Echoles (Berry Gordy), Rashaad Hall (Smokey Robinson), Lyle Miller (Harvey Fuqua), Dawn Bless (Gwen Gordy), Katrina Miller (Anna Gordy), and Melanie McCullough (Tammi Terrell and Jan Gaye).

Pictured is Playwright Andrew Hinderaker courtesy of Chicago Dramatists.

I Am Going to Change the World left us all aghast

Chicago Dramatists, known for developing and producing award-winning world premieres is proud to present the final production of their 2011 - 2012 Season, I Am Going to Change the World by Resident Playwright Andrew Hinderaker and directed by Jonathan Berry.

I Am Going to Change the World runs until July 1 at Chicago Dramatists, 1105 West Chicago Ave. Ticket prices are $32 for regular single tickets and student tickets are available at Thursday performances for $15. Tickets may be purchased online at www.chicagodramatists.org/box-office.

I Am Going to Change the World, follows John Chapman, who as a child, vowed to become a billionaire by age 35. When he graduates as University of Chicago's valedictorian and lands an interview with Goldman Sachs, his dreams are within reach. However, on the morning of his interview, John's alarm fails him, and when he finally wakes, it's to a life he never imagined possible.

The complete cast and production team for I Am Going to Change the World includes: Nicholas Harazin (John), Norm Woodel (Frank), Meg Thalken (Marla), Judy Blue (Dr. Jensen), Ed Flynn (Troy), Gabriel Franken (Geoffery) and Robert Koon (Tom).

Andrew Hinderaker is a resident playwright at Chicago Dramatists whose recent work Suicide, Incorporated, received its New York premiere at the Roundabout Theatre's Underground in November 2011. The play was initially developed at Steppenwolf's First Look Festival of New Work and at the Seven Devils Playwrights Conference. It premiered at Chicago's Gift Theatre in June 2010 to critical acclaim, where it enjoyed a twice-extended sold-out run and was nominated for multiple Jeff Awards, including "Best New Work."

Hinderaker's follow-up, Kingsville, premiered at Chicago's Stage Left Theatre in October 2010. The play was featured in American Theater magazine and named a finalist for the Woodward/Newman Drama Award. His plays have been developed and produced at such theatre companies as the Araca Group, Steppenwolf, Victory Gardens, the side project and American Theater Company. Additional recognitions for Hinderaker's work include finalist/semi-finalist status for the Princess Grace Award, the Heideman Award and the Austin Film Festival.

Rock of Ages opening June 5th at Broadway Playhouse in Chicago. This 5 time 2009 Tony nominee will blow your mind. Small town girl meets big city rocker in a famous rock club in LA. They fall in in love to the greatest songs in the 80's. Tickets are now on sale through ticketmaster.com or the boxoffice in Chicago.

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Jarlsberg Dip Slider Bites

(From www.kitchenminions.com)

Ingredients:

1 French baguette

1 8-ounce container Jarlsberg Original Cheese Dip

Melted butter

Grape or cherry tomatoes, sliced thin

Directions:

Cut baguette into 1/4"-thick slices. Spread each slice with a generous layer of Jarlsberg dip. Place tomatoes on half of the bread slices and top those halves with "no tomato" slices (spread side down), to finish sandwich. Heat a grill pan on medium low. Lightly brush top of sandwiches with butter and place them on hot grill, butter side down; brush tops with butter. Grill 3 minutes, until golden brown and dip is melted, before carefully flipping to grill the other side (3 minutes), before removing from pan. Serve warm and enjoy.

Some Tasteful Variations

• For a meatier "bite," replace tomatoes with sliced ham or crispy bacon bits.

• For an earthier flavor note, use truffle oil instead of melted butter.

• Replace tomatoes with a teaspoon of apricot preserves, a sweet complement to the tang and creaminess of the cheese.

• Try these slider bites with different breads-sourdough, rye, pumpernickel or whole grain.

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Obituary

Sister Mary Irenaeus Chekouras, RSM, past president of Chicago's oldest institution of higher education, passed away on Tuesday, May 22

Sister Mary Irenaeus Chekouras, RSM, Ph.D., age 90, passed away suddenly of complications after surgery on Tuesday, May 22, at Little Company of Mary Hospital in Evergreen Park, Ill. Sister Marion Johnson, RSM, her dear friend for many decades, was at her side.

From 1972 until 1982, Sister Irenaeus served as president of Saint Xavier College, founded in 1846 by the Sisters of Mercy, a religious congregation to which she belonged since 1943. During her tenure there, Sister Irenaeus led many changes, including directing the transition from an all-women's college to a co-educational institution.

This April, Sister Irenaeus celebrated her 90th birthday with close to 150 family members and friends at Saint Xavier University. "She was overjoyed by the affection lavished upon her, and especially appreciated the people who traveled great distances to celebrate with her," said Sister Marion.

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"Sister Irenaeus was a dedicated administrator, beloved teacher and advocate for homeless women and children as well as the poor," added Sister Marion. "She had a knack for engaging everyone in the causes close to her heart. For instance, guests always brought donations amounting to thousands of dollars for Sister Irenaeus to give to her charities when they came to the annual Christmas party we hosted in our home."

For 17 years after she concluded her 10 years of service as college president, Sister Irenaeus returned to teaching part-time in the School of Education. Prior to serving as college president, Sister Irenaeus was director of Graduate Education and taught as a faculty member in the School of Education for more than 10 years.

In the fall 2009 edition of Saint Xavier's magazine, Sister Irenaeus was quoted as saying, "To engage a person as a human being is important. I have a high opinion of teaching. I really get excited about exploring a subject and I'm not afraid to look at if from different perspectives."

In 2011, she began facilitating a philosophy course in the Renaissance Academy, a lifelong learning program at Saint Xavier University. Until 1993, Sister Irenaeus also volunteered as part of the university's advancement team.

As president emirita of Saint Xavier, Sister Irenaeus was recruited to serve on boards of other leading Chicago institutions including Loyola University of Chicago, St. Mary's College in Winona, Minn., and the Chicago School of Professional Psychology.

Sister Irenaeus earned her doctorate of philosophy of education from the University of Chicago in 1964; her master's degree from Catholic University in 1956; and was graduated from Saint Xavier College in 1955. She also attended International College in Denmark in 1969-70.

In addition to her accomplishments in academics, Sister Irenaeus served her religious community as the mistress of postulants from 1957 to 1960 for the Sisters of Mercy.

The Beloit, Wisc., native is the daughter of the late George Chekouras and Sophie Pisonova; she is survived by her brother, John, as well as legions of beloved nephews and nieces, grand and great-grand nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her brothers, Tom, Carl and Dean.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Sisters of Mercy, 10024 S. Central Park Ave., Chicago 60655; Saint Xavier University, 3700 W. 103rd St., Chicago 60655; or the Institute of Women Today, 7315 S. Yale, Chicago 60621.

For additional information, please contact the Thompson Kuenster Funeral Home, 708-425-0500.

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SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 38 | Number 24 | June 19, 2012

Burbank, Evergreen Park, Hickory Hills, Justice, Oak Lawn

Justice Trustee Justifies Gaming

by Jan Glaz

Trustee Ed Rusch Jr. clarified his view of the Village's position regarding the approval of an Ordinance for Gaming Machines entering Justice at the Board of Trustees meeting held on June 11th. Before making a motion for approval, Rusch declared that due to the surrounding towns that have already approved gaming, if Justice does not agree to the legislation it would do a disservice to the business owners in Justice. "Obviously those people that would partake in this type of entertainment are going to go to the towns that do have them and therefore we're going to minimize the amount of revenue that both our businesses and municipality will generate," said Rusch.

Rusch further stated that Gaming is run by the State of Illinois Gaming Board. Each establishment is allowed a maximum of 5 machines, located in a supervised area, where only patrons 21 or over have access. The revenue estimate by the State for each business with 5 machines will generate approximately $11,200.00; however he had reservations on the amounts of revenue and jobs the State of Illinois proposed over the next five years: The Board voted in favor of Gaming.

Vehicle owners beware: Under Illinois State Law the registered owner of a vehicle is liable for any automated traffic law violations that occur. It does not matter who is driving the car (unless the vehicle has been reported stolen prior to the time of violation. Trustee Melanie Kuban urged residents to check the Village of Justice website for important information about the Red-Light Camera Program. Kuban also reported a grace period until the end of June regarding the Red-Light Camera initiative at the intersection of 79th and 88th Avenue.

Price of Lighting a Truck: A motion carried to approve a proposal from EVT Technologies in Mokena to install a light bar and electronic safety equipment on a recently purchased F350 pick-up truck at Public Works: the cost $2,259.70.

Noteworthy Actions before Adjournment: Village authorities were given permission by the Board of Trustees to sign preliminary Engineering Services Agreements and Local Agency Agreements for the Federal Participation for the Frontage Road Construction Project.

Trustee Sue Small entertained a motion which the Board of Trustees approved for a proposal from Revize LLC, for a Web Design and Content Management System at an initial cost of $4,000, including 500 pages of content migration. Small explained originally the fee discussed was $3,000.00 but it was discovered that there is an additional $1,000.00 annual licensing fee.

New Business Licenses will be issued to: Easy Truck Sales, LLC, 8750 W. 82nd Place. Livtavras Zeinait a used semi-truck sales; Justice Child Development Center, 8527-31 S. 88th Avenue. Mohamed Eldibany .

Hickory Hills: Saving big on electricity

by Jan Glaz

Mayor Mike Howley made an official announcement at the Village Board Meeting held on June 14th regarding the price of electricity in Hickory Hills. After meeting with all the guidelines for electric aggregation he reported that the city locked into a 1 year contract for an electric supply rate of $.0498 per kilowatt hour. Without the passing of aggregation and without the new contract residents would pay 29% more on the energy portion of their bill. Com-Ed will still handle maintenance and distribute electricity. Residents will receive a letter containing information about the program and Instructions detailing how a citizen may "opt-out" of the program by sending in the post card provided. Opting out allows a resident to sign with any alternate energy supplier they choose or continue using the Com-Ed rate. The letter also includes a web page address and a toll free number for any other inquiries. The city has signed a contract with "Integrys Energy" for the lower rate and hopes the rate will become effective in August.

A resident requested that the City Council spruce up the city by installing new lighting throughout the village and stated certain locations. He also commented that many fire hydrates require painting. His final request was that a parade celebrating the 4th of July be returned to the city as so many residents had enjoyed it. Mayor Howley thanked the resident for bringing attention to these matters and that the city council would review his requests.

Alderman Ferrero, City Events Committee, reminded all that the Street Fair Kick Off Concert is Saturday, June 23, from 7 to 10 p.m., the Neverly Brothers will be performing and admission to the concert is free. The Street Fair is Sunday, June 24th. Details on both Street Fair events can be found on the Village of Hickory Hills website and inside the summer edition of the Hickory Hills Herald newsletter.

Before adjournment the issue of Garage Sales met with a discussion between the City Clerk and Aldermen as to whether to set a price for permits and the number of Garage Sales allowed a year. "Currently there is no charge for Garage Sales and I would like a fee of $5.00 per permit and allow 2 per year...." said City Clerk D'Lorah Catizone. Alderman John Szeszycki commented that he felt they shouldn't charge anyone for what they do inside their own house, as did the other Aldermen. "Every time they (residents) come in they say what's the fee, that's how this was brought to my attention." replied Catizone. It was decided to keep the permit free allowing two per year, and a fine if residents do not have a permit.

Support Park Lawn Fund Raiser

Park Lawn is having a gr Grand Raffle to help fund what is need for the school. Tickets are available for local non-profit Park Lawn's annual Grand Raffle Drawing with the grand prize being a choice of $15,000 cash, or a 2011 Harley-Davidson Softail FXS Blackline, or a 2012 Ford Focus or a 2012 Ford Fiesta. The second prize is $5,000, third prize is $3,000, fourth prize is $1,000, fifth prize is $500, sixth prize is $300 and the 7th through 20th winners will take home $200 each. The Grand Raffle drawing and reception will be held on July 26th at Park Lawn School and Activity Center, 10833 S. LaPorte in Oak Lawn. Tickets are $100 each and only 999 tickets will be sold.

Tickets can be purchased by visiting or mailing to Park Lawn at 10833 S. LaPorte in Oak Lawn or call Park Lawn at (708) 425-6867. This year's Grand Raffle is being sponsored by Terry's Automotive Group of Orland Park and Chicago Harley-Davidson of Glenview. The reception and drawing will occur at Park Lawn School and Activity Center 10833 S. LaPorte in Oak Lawn.

The Grand Raffle Drawing is an annual fundraising event for Park Lawn, a non-profit organization offering a variety of programs and services such as adult developmental training, residential facilities, vocational training, supported employment and more for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities since 1955.

Oak Lawn Park District's Star Spangled Fourth of July

The Oak Lawn Park District's Annual Star Spangled Fourth of July Celebration will be held Wednesday, July 4, at Centennial Park, located at 94th and Nashville Avenue. The day will begin with a variety of family activities from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm that includes: concessions, Oak Lawn's Got Talent, a treasure hunt, obstacle course, kids tattoos, carnivals games, pony rides, inflatables, bingo, and much more!

Evening entertainment will be held at the football field at Richards High School (106th Street and Central Avenue). Gates will open at 6:00 pm. Dave Rudolf will take the stage at 8:15 pm followed by a spectacular fireworks display that is cosponsored by the Village of Oak Lawn.

A fee of $5 per child (ages 3 and up) will allow for participation in all daytime activities. Adults are free. An agenda of all activities and times will be available soon at www.olparks.com. For more information, please call 708-857-2200.

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FAR SOUTH EDITION

Volume 10 | Number 12 | June 19 , 2012

Oak Forest, Orland Park, Tinley Park

Orland Park Proud of New Fire Chief

by Jan Glaz

Ken Brucki accepted the oath of Fire Chief for the Orland Park Fire Protection District on June 4th. Brucki now 44 began his career as a volunteer firefighter twenty-four years ago in the town of Marionette Park. In 1994 he began full-time employment with the Pleasantview Fire Protection District located in LaGrange Highlands, where he rose up the ranks to Lieutenant in 2011. The Orland Park Fire Protection District is more than double the size of the Pleasantview Fire Protection District and is considered the largest in the country. "My job is to look at the big picture and prepare for the 'great anything can happen'," said Brucki. His Fire Chief salary with Orland Park is $150,000.

Ken Brucki replaces former Orland Park Fire Chief, Bryant Krizik. Due to allegations of employee misconduct an early retirement agreement was offered to Krizik and he retired in September. His retirement package is in the neighborhood of $118,000.00.

Of Interest: The Board of Trustees moved to approve the purchase of twenty radios for the Public Works Department. In an effort to promote more efficient use of radio frequency spectrum, the FCC mandated all VHF and UHF Public Safety and Industrial/Business licensees using 25 kHz land mobile radio systems migrate to narrowband 12.5 kHz efficiency technology by January 1, 2013. The Village of Orland Park Public Works Department is currently using a 25 kHz radio system. When the Public Works system is migrated to 12.5 kHz efficiency, it is necessary to have land mobile radios that can operate within the new narrow banding spectrum. Currently, the department has twenty (20) radios that are not 12.5 kHz capable. United Radio Communications, Inc., Bridgeview, IL, had the lowest price for each radio. The total purchase price of the twenty radios is $5,980.00.

Epidemic of dangerous trees in Oak Forest

by Jan Glaz

Board members agreed to a contract for the removal of hundreds of diseased Ash trees on June 12th at the Oak Forest City Council Meeting. City Administrator Troy Ishler reported that emerald ash borer infestation is spreading at an astounding rate, reaching epidemic proportions. When questioned by an alderman as to the number of trees the city needed to take down, the Administrator replied of the 1800 marked for removal. Public Works has removed to date approximately 600 trees.

Over 500 trees have to be taken down immediately as they are a threat to public safety. Troy further explained that due to tree removal consuming so much of the Public Works Department time, other key projects are falling behind. As an example of the rapid spread of emerald ash borer, he related that in the fall he went out on a street with the city's street superintendent and every bad tree was taken down, leaving about four; when they returned today the same healthy trees were sticks. The borer beetle destroys the tree from under the bark. The approved contract for tree removal provides hiring Homer Tree Service at a very good price of $550 per tree, including stump grinding.

Before the meeting adjourned, Troy Ishler offered details regarding the City's Capital Improvement Program expenditures from all departments. Ishler disclosed that the amount of 17 million dollars was proposed by all department heads as the amount to be budgeted for city projects. The city does not have that amount but when the council recently passed the higher sales tax it was discussed that a certain percentage would be used towards the purchase of Capital. The council then listed the most critical projects and equipment that they needed to purchase this year, a cost of $359,091.00. Ishler drew attention to the fact that the Police Department has been postponing the purchase of squad cars for the past three years and the situation is critical. Among other expenditures; computer replacement and repair of the mechanics garage building for the Public Works Department. Ishler asked for and received Board approval for each project presented to the City Council.

District 135 Board appoints new Assistant Principals

The Orland School District 135 Board of Education appointed Colleen Joyce to High Point School and David Kennedy to Assistant Principal for Jerling Jr. High starting for the 2012-13 school year at their meeting held on June 11, 2012.

Colleen Joyce comes from Jerling Jr. High where she was a school counselor for five years and taught math, language arts, reading and fine arts for four years. In addition, she was been active with the student clubs serving as Jerling's drama director, yearbook coordinator, girls' volleyball and basketball coach as well as on Jerling's School Improvement Committee, School Crisis Team, Coordinator of Career Day and the Character Counts Committee. Joyce attended the University of Dayton, graduating with a B.S. in education and was a member of Golden Key National Honor Society and Honors and Scholars Programs. She completed her M.S. in School Counseling at St. Xavier University. Joyce attained her second M.S. in Administration from St. Francis University. At the district level, Colleen collaborated with the review and development of reading and writing in the fine arts and language arts curricula and participated in the insurance wellness committee. High Point School's Principal Cheryl Foertsch said, "Colleen Joyce is very focused on the success and well being of the students and she will be a valuable asset to High Point".

David Kennedy brings seven years of administrative experience from both the high school and junior high levels. For the past three years, he has been the Assistant Principal at Thompson Jr. High in Oswego. Previously, he worked at Somonauk High School for three years as Dean/Athletic Director and at Plainfield Central High School for eight years where he was a Dean, social studies teacher, and coach. While at Plainfield he created anti-bullying measures at the building and district levels and developed truancy intervention strategies to help keep students in school. Kennedy earned a B.S. in History from Illinois State University and a Master's Degree in Educational Administration from Governors State University. Jerling Jr High's Principal Pam Hodgson recommended Kennedy to the Board saying, "We are pleased to have David at Jerling with his deep background working with junior high students and can't wait to start a new school year with his commitment to Jerling's Character Counts program."

The new hires also came at the same time as the approval of the new Interim Superintendent for District 135, Dr. Carol Kunst for the 2012-2013 school year. Current Interim Superintendent Dennis Soustek commented at the close of the meeting, "These talented educators will guide us into a new school year with strong leadership and we are pleased to have them on board as we move forward".

Carl Sandburg High School selected to perform at 2012 Edinburgh Fringe Theatre Festival

Carl Sandburg High School was selected by the American High School Theatre Festival to perform a play in the 2012 Edinburgh Fringe Theatre Festival. This is the largest theatre festival in the world and one of the best high school educational theatre experiences around and it is incredibly difficult to get to be invited to participate. Over 3500 Schools applied this year and 50 were accepted. By simple math this means we are considered in the top %1 of all high schools that applied.

We have a great group of dedicated students who are excited to get to learn about theatre in an international setting. This educational experience is quite expensive, however, so we need your help! If you or your company would like to help the students to help with a fundraising gala on July 28, please contact Geoff Epperson at 773-931-3099 or gepperson@d230.org. Many levels of sponsorship are available. Save the date to attend the Gala on July 28 - tickets are $25 each.

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SOUTH SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 13 | Number 12 | June 19, 2012

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

Chicago Ridge to hold two electrical aggregation public hearings

by Matt Mayer

In a telephone conversation regarding the June 5 Chicago Ridge Board of Trustees meeting, Village clerk Chuck Tokar announced that the village plans to hold two public hearings pertaining to electrical aggregation, which residents approved by referendum in the April election. Residents will be advised of the dates either by telephone or via the village web site, said Tokar. The village Website is www.chicagoridge.org/.

Other highlights: Trustee Jack Lind said that some residents are ground feeding birds which is against a village ordinance. The ordinance regarding bird feeding states that bird feeders need to be a minimum of 5 feet off the ground. Lind asked village attorney George Witous to research this matter and report back to the board with his findings and recommendations.

A request from Kaspers General Store to hold an Annual Cancer Fundraiser that was approved at the April 3 board meeting was changed and was held on June 10.

Palos Hills will have their first Friendship Rib Cook Off

On Saturday, July 14, 2012 starting at Noon until 5:30 pm at 109th & 88th Ave, At the Palos Friendship Festival there will be a Rib Cook Off. The cook off will have a 1st and 2nd Place Judges Award which is based on taste, sauce, tenderness and appearance. Anyone can enter with a $10.00 entry fee which includes free apron and a goodie bag. BBQ Style Pork Spareribs or Pork Back Ribs Only! Contestants are responsible to supply ribs, grill, cooking utensils etc. They must abide by Illinois Health Dept Rules and Regulations.

Again this is the 1st Annual Palos Hills Friendship Rib Cook Off which is being held on Saturday, July 14, 2012 from Noon to 5:30 p.m. At the Palos Friendship Festival, 109th & 88 Ave., Palos Hills, IL.

To register please fill in the Official Entry Form for additional information contact 708- 430-4500. Or look on the website. http://palosfriendshipfest.homestead.com/Rib-Cook-Off.html .

Annual Chicago Ridge Fest

July 26th - July 29th

Live Music, Carnival,

Great Food & Beer Garden all four days!

Online Ticket Sales for Friday & Saturday Special pricing for Chicago Ridge residents available only at the Chicago Ridge Village Hall (proof of residency required.)

Thursday Musical

Guest - 7th Heaven

Admission - $5 at the gate, Chicago Ridge Resident free with valid ID

Gates open at 5:30 p.m.

Friday

Musical Guest - American Idol finalist James Durbin

Admission - Online presale $15 or $20 at the gate

Gates open 5:30 p.m.

Saturday

Musical Guest - Bret Michaels

Admission - Online presale $20 or $25 at the gate

Gates open at 4:00 p.m.

Sunday -

Family Fun Day!

Musical Guest - Satisfaction "A Rolling Stones Experience"

Admission - $5 at the gate, Chicago Ridge Resident free with valid ID

Gates open at 2:00 p.m.

Sunday's Featured Attractions:

New and Unique Zip Line for all ages

·Jim Nesci's Cold Blooded Creatures

·Dave DiNaso's Traveling World of Reptiles

·Kim Schilling's Animals for Awareness

·Friendly Farms

·Magician Matt Scherer

·Jessie White Tumblers

·Balloon Dude Dale

·Lester's Learn and Play

·Troy Roark's Wet N' Wild

·Laura Ernst Kinetic Entertainment

·Swords and Roses Swashbucklers

·Children's Singer Babalou

·Home Depot Kids Build-It Workshop

·Euro Bungee

·Mount Avalanche Climbing Wall

·And many more!

Cruz n' the Hills Cruise Nights

Come and enjoy cool cars on a Hot Summer Nights. August 8, 2012 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. September 12, 2012 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Music 50's every month, Food Concessions, Raffles.

At the Palos Hills Community Center at the Town Square Park, 8455 West 103 Street, Palos Hills, IL. Call for more details at 708-538-3400.

Space is limited to 50 vehicles. There is No Show Fee, this is Not a Judged Show. Best in Show Trophy every Month.

Mark you calendar for the Worth Days Festival

Enjoy Carnival Rides, Craft and Vendors, Entertainment, Fireworks, Food Vendors, and Parade, Bingo Tent, Free Petting Zoo, Classic Car Show at the Worth Days Festival.

It take place on Thursday, August 9th, 2012, the Carnival only day from 5pm to 10pm, but a Mega Pass is good for all 4 Days, Friday, August 10th, 6pm to Midnight Kid's Zone from 6 p.m. to 8pm, Bingo Tent from 5 pm to 9 pm Saturday, August 11th , 12 pm to Midnight Kid's Zone from Noon to 8 pm Bingo Tent from 1 pm to 8 pm Free Petting Zoo from 2 pm to 6 pm Classic Car Show from Noon to 4 pm Sunday, August 12th, 1 pm to 10:30 pm Kids Zone 1 pm to 7 pm Bingo Tent 1 pm to 8 pm Free Pony Rides 2 pm to 5 pm Military Vehicle Display at 1pm

Admission is $5.00 Standard, $3.00 Residents, Free under age of 16 and Free over age 60. Free Active Military ID . Free Admission to Carnival Mega Pass is good for all 4 days for the Carnival.

Illinois Patriot Guard Fallen Heroes Traveling Memorial Wall in Palos Hill Friendship Fest

Illinois Patriot Guard Fallen Heroes Traveling Memorial Wall Will be on display at the Palos Hills Friendship Fest on Thursday, July 12th & Friday, July 13th, 2012 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. At Town Square Park at 8455 West 103 Street, Palos Hills, IL. where the festival is.

This Wall is in honor of the Illinois Fallen Heroes from Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. On each memorial is an image of the Hero, his / her rank, branch of service, date of death and their hometown.

The Story of the Wall The original idea for the Memorial came from a Gold Star grandfather. He wanted to honor not only his grandson on his motorcycle trailer but all Illinois Fallen Heroes.

After many hours of compiling memorial graphics for his trailer it was decided that we would make a wall of Honor for the ILPG2010 Gathering of the Guard in Knoxville, IL.

We set up an outdoor memorial named the Honor Guard-en. On the first night the Honor Guard-en was opened a Gold Star father stated "This wall must be seen by as many people as possible".

I want my son and all the other Illinois Fallen Hero's to" Never be Forgotten".

With that said, the Illinois Patriot Guard purchased a trailer and materials needed to construct the first Fallen Heroes Traveling Memorial. The Fallen Heroes Memorial began its never ending journey throughout the State to Honor our Heroes wherever it was requested.

In just the first nine months the Memorial has traveled to over 60 different locations throughout Illinois covering over 30,000 miles.

Gold Star Father and Patriot Guard Don Pannier, pulls the memorial with his own vehicle to almost every showing. Thank you to Don and Robyn Pannier, Gold Star Parents of SPC Phillip J. Pannier Because of what you have created and share with us we will " Never Forget" Honor Their Service.

Remember Their Sacrifice Celebrate Their Lives and " Never Forget"

Village View

We serve our community with good news!

vwww.villageviewls.weebly.com

B-MAC EDITION

Volume 6 | Number 12 | June 19, 2012

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Alsip cautious about video gaming

by Jan Glaz

After a lengthy discussion by the Board at the Village of Alsip's regularly scheduled Board of Trustees Meeting, held on June 4th, a request for approval of an Ordinance Amending the Municipal Code for the Village of Alsip to permit Video Gaming, met with delay. This is the second time the request has been postponed. A spokesman for the gaming request addressed the Board of Trustees and questioned what they could do to pass the Ordinance. He was informed that the Village is not prepared to make a decision at this time, in spite of the incentive of approximately 5% of the revenue from gaming going to the municipality.

Expenditures: The Village approved the purchase of one new intoximeter (breathalyzer or breathalyser a device for estimating blood alcohol level from a breath sample) at a cost of $5870.00. This was budgeted in the Capital Projects of the 2012-13 budgets. The Fire Department received approval to purchase two new Stryker cots. Stryker cots are tough, all-aluminum X-frame cots that set a new standard for safe, simple, superior manual cot operation. The Village portion of the cost is $5,425.00 and the portion approved by the Foreign Fire Board (Foreign Fire Insurance Fund as required by state statute for the maintenance, use, and benefit of the Fire Department) is $6500.00

END NOTE: Before the meeting adjourned, Mayor Kitching asked Trustee James Quinn for a report on the Boat Launch. When Quinn replied 'no report' it sparked a negative response from the Mayor. Kitching had a report; he announced that the Boat Launch took in $300.00 over the weekend. He mentioned that the lack of interest by Trustee Quinn stemmed from the Board of Trustees desire to pass the Boat Launch to the Park District. Kitching then questioned Quinn if giving away the Boat Launch could have anything to do with the fact that Quinn and his family held a Golden Ticket to the Park District. The Mayor knew other board members had a ticket, he explained that a Golden Ticket allows the ticket holder and their family free use of Park District activities. Quinn disagreed that this was the reason the Board would want to transfer the Boat Launch to the Park District.

Crestwood Ultra Foods opens June 21

by Jan Glaz

The Board of Trustees approved an Ordinance Amending the Liquor Control Act of the Village Code to define retail Liquor Establishments within the village at the regular Committee of the Whole Meeting held on June 07th. The Ordinance allows Ultra Foods in Crestwood to sell Liquor. Residents of Crestwood have been patiently waiting for the return of a full scale grocery store since Dominick's Food Store closed five years ago. The very welcome Grand Opening event for Ultra Foods will begin on June 21st at 13180 S. Cicero, in Crestwood, Illinois.

Mayor Robert Stranczek announced a request for the appointment of Michael Haak to the position of Full Time Code Enforcement Officer, subject to him signing his bonds and oaths. The Board of Trustees voted to approve the appointment.

Code enforcement is a function local governments perform that many citizens consider important for accomplishing community goals, such as protecting property values and the environment. Others view code enforcement as an annoying intrusion into the free use of private property. It is a process whereby local governments use various techniques to gain compliance with duly-adopted regulations such as land use and zoning ordinances, health and housing codes, sign standards, and uniform building and fire codes. In recent years, federal and state regulations governing air and water quality and the transport and storage of hazardous wastes, and requirements for implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act have come into play. Local governments are now obliged to include enforcement of these rules and regulations in the array of responsibilities they assume for protecting the public health and welfare.

The City Council also approved the appointment of Jamie Cluckey to the position Full-Time Recreation Coordinator at a salary of $28,000.00/ per year. Paul W. Lanzi gained approval to the position of Part-Time Police Officer at the rate of $12.25 per hour.

A concerned citizen addressed the Mayor and Board of Trustees before the end of the meeting to ascertain the validity of promotions that he and other citizens have been receiving from companies offering to fight their property tax assessment, for a price. Mayor Stranczek as well as various board members had also received this type of mail request and the citizen was advised to disregard it because a similar service is available at no cost through their township.

Midlothian steps ahead of the rest

by Jan Glaz

Midlothian supported the motion to hire a V3 investigative work plan to aid in the preparation of a requirement under the newly awarded USEPA Brownfield Assistance Grant, for a cost of $500.00, on June 13th at the Village Board Meeting. The preparation fee is small compared to the size of the grant, $400,000.00. "This is huge. There were only three communities in the entire state of Illinois that were awarded a USEPA Grant." announced Trustee Karen Kreis.

Mayor Terrence Stevens reported that the grant will be utilized in two phases, first to make a study of properties throughout the village and second, if the survey indicates n condition that needs further improvement, to do the work required to put properties back on the tax roll; especially important for businesses in the downtown area. "We've been able to take a few steps ahead of other communities," said the Mayor.

No More Coins: the city council made it official, 'no more coins', when they agreed to execute the Integrity Merchant Solutions Terms and Conditions and Merchant Processing Application and Agreement to provide credit card capabilities for Metra Station and the Village of Midlothian. An increase of the parking lot fee per space from the current $1.25 to $1.50 at the Metra Station to offset credit and debit card fees charged to the village for the new parking lot revenue machines was tabled. This item will come up for a vote at a later date.

Mayor Stephens and J. Congdon Sewer Service donated to the Village Green: Permission was granted to purchase a Flag Pole using funds donated in the amount of $750.00 from Congdon Sewer plus a shipping amount of $250.00, donated by the Mayor.

Important purchases were agreed upon before the meeting adjourned: a purchase in the amount of $17,385.00 for a 2012 Ford F-150 from Curie Motors through the South Suburban Purchasing Cooperating; purchase from Harris Golf Carts for a 2001 Yamaha G16A Golf Cart in the amount of $2,500.00, which includes a standard rear facing seat and a headlight and taillight package.

Students (from left to right) Samantha Carrillo, Benjamin Perez, Christian Labriola, Oscar Duran and Andrea Nunez proudly show off a portion of the pop tabs collected with Ronald McDonald.

Paul Revere Primary School collects for Ronald McDonald House

Paul Revere Primary School in Blue Island has recently shown their philanthropic spirit by supporting the Ronald McDonald House Charities. Students and staff were busy collecting pop tabs throughout the school year, which the charity recycles for financial contributions.

The school community brought in 35 pounds of pop tabs for the Oak Lawn house near Advocate Hope Children's Hospital. Because of their outstanding efforts, Paul Revere Primary students were treated to a visit by Ronald McDonald himself, accompanied by a program representative.

US Department of Labor's OSHA cites Illinois Gun Works for exposing workers to lead, other hazards at Elmwood Park plan

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration has cited Illinois Gun Works Ltd. for 28 alleged health violations following a Jan. 21 inspection referred by the Illinois Department of Public Health that found two gun range operators were exposed to airborne lead levels up to 12 times the permissible level. Proposed fines total $111,000.

"Illinois Gun Works has a responsibility to protect the health of its employees by ensuring that they operate in a manner which eliminates or minimizes lead hazards, including exposure," said Diane Turek, director of OSHA's Chicago North Area Office in Des Plaines. "OSHA is committed to protecting employees' safety and health."

A total of 27 serious violations include 13 for violating the lead standard, including failing to implement engineering and work practice controls to reduce exposure, collect full shift personal samples for monitoring, measure effectiveness of the ventilation system to control exposure, provide clean protective clothing, dispose of or replace protective clothing, provide clean changing rooms or separate storage facilities for protective work clothing to prevent cross-contamination with street clothes, require workers exposed to lead to shower at the end of a shift or to ensure workers washed hands and faces prior to consuming food during breaks, and implement a medical surveillance program for all employees who were exposed to lead at or above the action levels, including biological monitoring such as blood sampling.

The remaining serious violations include failing to implement a hazard communication program, train workers on hazardous chemicals present in the work environment, label chemical bottles with contents and a hazard warning, administer an effective hearing conservation program, train in the use of personal protective equipment and implement a respirator protection program that includes, fit testing and training. A serious violation occurs when there is substantial probability that death or serious physical harm could result from a hazard about which the employer knew or should have known.

One other than serious violation has been cited for failing to provide a written certification that a hazard assessment had been performed. An other-than-serious violation is one that has a direct relationship to job safety and health, but probably would not cause death or serious physical harm.

The citations may be viewed at http://www.osha.gov/ooc/citations IllinoisGunWorks Ltd_110282_0608_12.pdf.

Illinois Gun Works operates a gun sales business, a shooting range and gun safety training. The company has 15 business days from receipt of its citations and penalties to comply, request an informal conference with OSHA's area director or contest the findings before the independent Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

To ask questions, obtain compliance assistance, file a complaint, or report workplace hospitalizations, fatalities or situations posing imminent danger to workers, the public should call OSHA's toll-free hotline at 800-321-OSHA (6742) or the agency's Chicago North office at 847-803-4800.

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA's role is to ensure these conditions for America 's working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education and assistance. For more information, visit http://www.osha.gov.

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We have found that through the years of publishing the readers are interested in general information and also local happenings within their community. Therefore because we are fully electronic, we will not be accepting faxed or mailed news releases.

A Consumerist, not "All of the Above," Energy Policy

by Robert L. Bradley Jr.

President Obama just can't decide on Keystone XL. Earlier this year, he denied approval for the project, which would have unleashed construction of a 2,600-mile pipeline to transport oil from Canadian shales to American refineries.

Yet at a recent campaign stop in Cushing, Oklahoma, the Energy-Impresario-in-Chief said he did support the pipeline, well, part of it. He announced a plan to fast-track Keystone's southern leg, a 484-mile track running from Cushing to the Gulf Coast.

A White House that rejects a major energy project one day, then demands fast-track approval for that same project, hasn't exactly established a coherent energy policy. What is that about half-slave, half-free?

Obama's limited Keystone approval is part of an "all of the above" energy strategy. Supposedly, his administration will support any project that will ramp up supply, bring down prices, and reduce dependence on foreign energy sources.

Sounds great. The problem is, the actual content of Obama's "all of the above" approach is heavily biased toward "green tech" and doesn't even include coal, which generates more domestic electricity than any other source.

And in the grand scheme of things, approval for Keystone's southern leg — an estimated $2.3 billion privately funded project — is relatively small compared to the tens of billions of dollars flowing to miniscule wind and solar.

A smarter approach is to avoid playing favorites. Unless the government has good reason to deny a project, it should be approved and allowed to compete on the open market. Let customers and private investors decide what's worth pursuing.

Here are five major steps this administration can take to move energy policy from that sham of "all of the above" to one of "consumer first."

First, avoid needless restrictions on hydraulic fracturing, colloquially known as "fracking." This shows profound promise for developing our reserves of oil and natural gas without compromising the environment. Recent back peddling by EPA on adverse findings and lawsuits is a good start.

Lifting unnecessary restrictions would immediately boost our domestic energy supply. There's an estimated 273 trillion cubic feet of recoverable natural gas in North America and 1.7 trillion barrels of recoverable oil. That's enough to power this country for 250 years.

Second, regulators need to throttle back hasty regulation on offshore exploration imposed after the 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster. When the Interior Department lifted its drilling moratorium , new mandates and go-slow permitting resulted in half of the pre-spill activity (15 versus 30 projects).

Third, the government must streamline permitting. Even when energy companies can initiate new projects, getting final approval can be so long and costly they end up quitting.

This means we're losing important new projects simply because of bureaucratic overreach. Today, just six percent of the country's onshore energy deposits and 2.2 percent of offshore reserves are actually being developed. That must change.

Fourth, the President needs to clean house. A number of his officials are hopelessly biased against traditional energy exploration.

Energy secretary Steven Chu once said, "We have to figure out how to boost the price of gasoline to the levels in Europe." And Obama's scientific advisor John Holdren: "More energy for its own sake (or for profit's sake) can no longer serve as the goal of national energy policy."

Chu, Holdren, and other federal officials who are anti oil, gas, and coal have no place in an administration that's allegedly concerned about pocketbook energy issues.

Finally, the White House should drop plans to levy new punitive taxes on energy development. The President's 2013 budget raises taxes on oil and gas by $27 billion over the next decade. Instead, simplify the tax code to eliminate preferential treatment and let the market sort out winners and losers.

"All of the above" is a smokescreen for good energy subsidizing bad. Government officials don't and can't, know the "answer" to this country's energy challenges. They should stop trying and let consumers decide in a free and open marketplace.

Robert L. Bradley Jr is the CEO & Founder of the Institute for Energy Research and author of seven books on energy history and public policy. He blogs at www.masterresource.org.

The Beautiful Yard Contest Winners

On Monday, June 4th judges visited 8 local gardens.The decision wasn't easy because all gardens were beautiful.

The winners of this year's Beautiful Yard Contest are:

Dan and Geri Toma, 5353 W. 89th St

Mike Donatowicz, 4236 W. 100th St

Tanya Harasym, 9539 S. LaCrosse

1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards were presented at the Oak Lawn Village Board Meeting, Tuesday, June 12th. Gardens were grown by Oak Lawn amateur gardeners.

Start planting those flowers and putting in the fountain you always dreamed of and enter the the contest in May of 2013.You may be the 2013 winner.

For more information go to the websites or email us. www.oaklawngardenclub or juneviolets@comcast.net

Oak Forest Veterans Commission hosts parade, reenactment in September

The Oak Forest Veterans Commission is proud to announce the return of an OakForest tradition, the I Am An American Day Parade. Although the parade was held on Cicero Avenue inthe 1960s and 1970s, this year's parade will be on Central Avenue from 151st Street to Independence on Saturday, September 15 at 11 a.m. See entire article on our website www.villageviewls.weebly.com

24th Annual
Day in the Park

Saturday, June 30, 2012

At The Community Center - 3450 W. 97th St.

Fest Times: 11:30 am - 9:00 pm

5K Run Registration at 7:30 am - Run Starts at 8:30 am

Music & Live Entertainment by The Wrong Boys 4-6 pm

FACE PAINTING ~ ARTS & CRAFTS

FOOD VENDORS ~ BEER/WINE GARDEN

"It's The Biggest Block Party in Evergreen Park!"

44th Annual
INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE

Tuesday, July 3, 2012 at 6:30 pm

Come Celebrate with Us and Honor Our Country!

Parade route is from 95th & Pulaski to 91st & Richmond

FIREWORKS DISPLAY!!!

Begins at Dusk at
Martin B. Duffy Memorial Park
92nd & Millard

FREE SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Klein Park, 97th & Homan
from 6:00 - 8:00 pm

ENCORE BAND
Sunday, July 8th

NEVERLY BROTHERS
Sunday, July 15th

GRAND AVENUE BIG BAND
Sunday, July 29th

CIRRUS FALCON
Friday, August 10th

CITY LIGHTS ORCHESTRA
Sunday, August 19th

Louis S. Viverito, Stickney Township Supervisor announces Grandparent's Day Party

The Louis S. Viverito Senior Center located at 7745 S. Leamington Ave. in Burbank will be hosting a Grandparent's Day Party on Thursday, July 12, 2012. Bring your grandchildren or special friend to the Senior Center to enjoy the day and lunch. This year's entertainment will feature the FrogLady.

The presentation will be led by Deb Krohn, a.k.a. the FrogLady, an award-winning professional naturalist who is passionate of all things wild and loves to pass it on to those attending her programs. The FrogLady show will include a variety of live reptiles and amphibians! Be sure to catch her! The party begins at 10:00 A.M.

To register for the party please call (708) 636-8850. Children's lunch is free. Registration is required

Obtain State of Illinois Temporary Disability Parking Placards at Orland Township

Residents in need of a temporary Illinois disability parking placard may pick up required paperwork at Orland Township, 14807 S. Ravinia Avenue, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesday.

The paperwork must be completed and signed by a physician and returned to Orland Township. The temporary placards are valid for a length of time indicated by the authorizing doctor, not exceeding 90 days. Placards may only be used in a vehicle in which the authorized holder of the parking placard is either the driver or a passenger.

When recovering from a medical issue, venturing outdoors is not always the easiest task. Temporary disability parking placards can make the experience easier and Orland Township is happy to help its residents adjust during a recovery period.

Chicago Ridge Library host AARP Driver Safety Program

The Chicago Ridge Public Library, 10400 S. Oxford, will host the AARP Driver Safety Program on Monday, June 25th& Tuesday, June 26th from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. AARP will be teaching their two-day Driver Safety Program at the library. You will learn Defensive Driving Techniques, New Traffic Laws, and Rules of the Road. Registration is required and the class costs $12 for AARP members and $14 for nonmembers, which you can pay on June 25th. Please bring your AARP card with you to the class. Call the library at 423-7753 with any questions

Smith Village and Smith Crossing is out for Blood

Smith CCRCs in Beverly and Orland Park 'out for blood' on Tuesday, June 26No, it's not a vendetta. It's a humanitarian effort with touch of friendly competition between two area continuing care retirement communities to collect the most blood donations in a day. Smith Senior Living, sponsor of Smith Crossing in Orland Park and Smith Village in Chicago's Beverly neighborhood, is holding simultaneous blood donor drives from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, June 26, in conjunction with LifeSource. Smith Crossing is located at 10501 Emilie Lane in Orland Park (enter at 104th Avenue and 183rd Street), and Smith Village is at 2320 W. 113th Place in Chicago.

The process takes about one hour and walk-ins are welcome: however, appointments . are recommended by calling LifeSource at 877-543-3768. "Often, you think of seniors and retirees needing blood, not giving it," says Smith Senior living's employee wellness coordinator, Heather Plizga. "But we have plenty of healthy, vibrant residents, employees and family members who are going to donate blood and everyone near one of our campuses is invited to join us that day." She has some guidelines for getting ready before an appointment. · Prepare for donating by eating well and staying hydrated. LifeSource will have free snacks and refreshments for all donors.

· Bring ID with you to the blood drive. It can be a LifeSource or military ID, driver's license, or employee badge with picture and full name. Birth certificate along with a picture ID that includes the donor's full name will also be accepted.

LifeSource is the largest blood center in Illinois and distributes a half-million blood products annually to approximately 60 area hospitals in meeting the need for patient transfusion therapy.

It will be using one of its mobile units to collect donations. About Smith Senior Living Smith Village and Smith Crossing provide a comprehensive program of services and amenities as well as apartments for residents needing assisted living or Alzheimer's and memory support services. Both campuses feature spacious independent living residences with a host of services and amenities, including a generous healthcare package for future needs if they should occur.

In addition, skilled nursing care and rehabilitation services and accommodations are available on each campus. Smith Village also offers respite care. Both are highly regarded continuing care retirement communities in the southwestern region of metropolitan Chicago.

They make it possible for seniors to enjoy a vibrant, active life or rely on the support and healthcare services they need. They are part of Smith Senior Living, a not-for-profit organization established in 1924 on the site of Smith Village's new campus.

For more information about how Smith Senior Living can help seniors enjoy their retirement, call Smith Crossing in Orland Park at 708-326-2300 or visit SmithCrossing.org.

For Smith Village in Chicago, call 773-474-7300 or visit SmithVillage.org

Palos Park Public Library invites children to play bingo

Children ages 5 and up are invited to play an hour of bingo and win tasty food treats at the Palos Park Public Library on Thursday, June 28th at 4:30 pm. The library is located at 12330 Forest Glen Blvd. Palos Park, IL. No registration is required. Just drop in for a fun afternoon

Youth Group Garage Sale/ Flea Market

Trinity Lutheran Youth will sponsor a Garage Sale/ Flea Market on Saturday, June 23 from 9 am to 2 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church at 97th and Brandt Ave. in Oak Lawn (2 blocks west of Cicero). Items for sale will include clothing (adults & children), books, house hold, toys and much more! Come and shop to help raise funds for youth to attend their summer trip to New York State .

Tables will be available to "rent" for $10 to sell items also. Any questions please call the church office at 708-422-0193.

70th year of Tilden High School Reunion

Tilden Tech H.S. Alumni Association will honor the class of 1942 at their 70th reunion. Tilden Tech Alumni Association has over 800 hundred members in 26 states. Most of the members live in the south, southwest and west suburbs. The January and June classes graduated 664 young men. Today we have 102. We are expecting 70 for lunch. A luncheon will be held on June 20, 2012 at Niko" Restaurant 7600 S. Harlem Ave. Bridgeview, IL.

Their will be displays from the class of 42. On display will be items made in Tilden's shops. Contact Don Casper Tilden Tech H.S. Alumni Assn. President 708-361-9234 .

Pictured from the left are Captain Mike McElroy, Ed McElroy and Alderman Robert Fioretti.

Community in Focus

Ed McElroy, host of "Community in Focus" TV show, recently interviewed Alderman Robert Fioretti, 2nd. Ward and Captain Mike McElroy, Chief of Vessel and Facility Operations of Wendella Tours.

The show will air on Friday, June 22nd at 5 p.m. and again on Sunday, June 24th at 12 noon on Senior Network Can TV, Channel 19.

Orland Park announces their Farmers Market activity

The Village of Orland Park Farmers' Market opened its eleventh season last Friday.

The Farmer's Market will be held every Friday (except for August 3) from 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the grounds of the Village Center, 14700 South Ravinia Avenue. More than 35 vendors will be sell fresh fruits, vegetables, flowers and plants, gourmet food items, oils, bakery goods, salsa, cheese, crafts, jewelry, doggie biscuits, household and personal items, purses and more.

The village's green tent will distribute information on how individuals can help the environment within their community.

Local community groups will sponsor barbecue lunches featuring hot dogs, hamburgers, cheeseburgers, and brats, along with a bag of chips, a soft drink and a cookie for a nominal price through mid-August.

Children will enjoy the free moon jump, the Orland Park Library Story Time and face painting.

The market will be open every Friday through October 5, except on August 3. For more information, please call 708-403-7275.

Orland Township to Host Monthly Immunization Clinic on August 4 and September 4

Orland Township is hosting its monthly immunization clinic on Saturday, August 4, 2012 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and Tuesday, September 4, 2012 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Township building, 14807 S. Ravinia Avenue.

Immunizations are offered to Orland Township residents. In order to receive an immunization, children 18 and younger must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian, display proof of residency, a valid shot record and, if applicable, an insurance card. Adult vaccines are also available for a fee and also require proof of residency.

Vaccinations that are offered include: DTap, DTap-IPV/Hib, DTap/IPV, DTap/Hep B/IPV, haemophilus b conjugate, Hep A, Hep B, Hep A/B, Hib, HPV, IPV, meningococcal, MMR, pneumococcal, TB, Tdap, TD, varicella, rotavirus, typhoid. The adult vaccine Zostovax is also available at most clinics but an appointment is necessary for this vaccine. Please call the Township office at (708) 403-4222 to request a Zostovax immunization.

Immunizations may seem like a hassle and can be easily forgotten but with school requirements, international travel and the rapidity in which illness is spread, it's important for children and adults alike to receive immunizations.

For additional clinic dates and adult immunization prices, visit www.orlandtwp.org.

US Labor Department awards $15 million in Workforce Innovation Fund grants to Illinois workforce agencies, announces 'Pay for Success' funding

Grants will support, enhance and evaluate innovative employment and training opportunities

Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis today announced nearly $15 million in grants to Illinois workforce agencies to develop and expand innovative strategies to help residents return to work by delivering services more efficiently, facilitating cooperation across programs and funding streams, and focusing on partnerships with specific employers or industry sectors to develop programs that reflect current and future skill needs. These grants are among 26 totaling $146.9 million awarded nationwide today as part of the Workforce Innovation Fund program.

"The Workforce Innovation Fund was created to cultivate and test innovative approaches to workforce training," said Secretary Solis. "The Chicago Workforce Investment Council and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity will have an opportunity to develop programs and practices that could service as a model for the country."

One of the overarching goals of the Workforce Innovation Fund is to better assess the effectiveness of each workforce strategy, so all grants include an evaluation component. By evaluating projects, the fund will significantly increase the body of knowledge about the most effective strategies in workforce development.

Twenty-six grants, ranging from $1 million to $12 million each, have been awarded to a combination of state workforce agencies and local workforce investment boards, as well as one Workforce Investment Act Section 166 grantee serving Indian and Native American communities.

The original solicitation for grant applications announced that $98 million would be awarded. Because of a tremendous response, the quality of applications received and the immediate need for additional resources, the department has elected to provide additional grants using $49 million from fiscal years 2011 and 2012 funds.

The Labor Department also is highlighting the availability of up to $20 million through the second round of Workforce Innovation Fund funding – expected to be announced in spring 2013 – to pilot the "Pay for Success" model. This model represents a new way of financing workforce investment projects through which the government only pays for services that achieve measurable results, shifting the risk of investment from the government to the private sector.

For more information about Pay for Success and to view the solicitation for grant applications, visit http://www.doleta.gov/grants/find_grants.cfm. To learn more about the Workforce Innovation Fund, visit http://www.doleta.gov/workforce_innovation.

Editor's note: A list of Workforce Innovation Fund grantees, their locations and award amounts follows this news release.

GRANTEE CITY STATE AWARD AMOUNT

Chicago Workforce Investment Council
Chicago
Ill.
$3,000,000

Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
Springfield
$11,999,985 This does not include other states that received the Grant Money.

Support Our Troops, and be Proud to be An American, in our 4th of July issue. Call 312-624-8996.

Oak Lawn Library announces June and July programs

Friends Request Book Sale Donations

Donate your "gently used" books, magazines, CDs and videos to the Friends of the Oak Lawn Library Ongoing Book Sale at the Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Ave. Due to space limitations, the Friends will not accept Readers Digest Condensed Books, encyclopedias and older text books.

The donation drop-off area is near the library's Cook Avenue entrance. Interested parties may fill out a short form at the Reception Booth to receive a tax letter by mail that acknowledges their donation.

The Friends Ongoing Book Sale provides an ever-changing variety of books, magazines and other forms of media at bargain prices.

Funds collected from the book sale support library programming and purchases that are beyond their regular budget.

For more information, call (708) 422-4990 or visit www.oaklawnlibrary.org.

Oak Lawn Artists Group Show

The Oak Lawn Library is now hosting its 5th Annual Oak Lawn Artist Group Show through July.

Community members are invited to stop by the library's second floor public Art Gallery to view dozens of original paintings, drawings and photographs by 19 Oak Lawn Artists. This two-month exhibition features the works of Sally Aleem, Nancy Canellis, Richard Forkin, Herb Forman, Karin Rae Fox, Debra Garelli, Jenny Gembala, Brigit Goudie, Virginia Jachna, Henry P. Keane, Mike King, Lawrence D. Kuhn, Daniel Linehan, Bridget Mitchell, Irene Rogers, Michelle Shinners, Robert R. Straits, Vesta Renee Wendtland and Ronald Williams.

Artists living in and around Oak Lawn who wish to participate in future art shows may pick up an art gallery application at the library's Reception Booth or online at www.oaklawnlibrary.org.

Free Weekly Summer Movie Series

Throughout the summer, the Oak Lawn Library will host its annual "Reel Books" Movie Series of films that are based on books.

Upcoming movie screenings include:

* Walk the Line (2005, PG-13, 136 min) Tuesday, June 19 at 10 a.m. A chronicle of country music legend Johnny Cash's life, from his early days on an Arkansas cotton farm to his rise to fame with Sun Records in Memphis, where he recorded alongside Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins. Starring Joaquin Phoenix, Reese Witherspoon and Ginnifer Goodwin. Based on autobiographies by Johnny Cash.

* The Lincoln Lawyer (2011, R, 118 min) – Wednesday, June 27 at 6:30 p.m. A sleazy defense attorney has a crisis of conscience when he represents a wealthy client who has a foolproof plan to beat the system. Starring Matthew McConaughey, Marisa Tomei and Ryan Phillippe. Based on a novel by Michael Connelly.

* The Adventures of Tin Tin (2011, PG, 107 min) – Sunday, July 1 at 2 p.m. Intrepid reporter Tintin and Captain Haddock set off on a treasure hunt for a sunken ship commanded by Haddock's ancestor. Starring Jamie Bell, Andy Serkis and Daniel Craig. Based on a series of comic books created by Belgian artist Hergé (Georges Remi).

* A Beautiful Mind (2001, PG-13, 135 min) – Thursday, July 5 at 6:30 p.m. After a brilliant but asocial mathematician accepts secret work in cryptography, his life takes a turn to the nightmarish. Biopic of the famed John Nash and his lifelong struggles with his mental health. Starring Russell Crowe, Ed Harris and Jennifer Connelly. Based on a biography by Sylvia Nasar.

Good Food Fast: The 20th Century Dining Revolution

Author David Clark will present "Good Food Fast: The 20th Century Dining Revolution" on Tuesday, June 26 at 7 p.m. at the Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Avenue. The presentation will feature the history of how favorite dining establishments evolved from Fred Harvey railroad dining cars and urban lunch counters. From carhops and cookie-cutter franchises to familiar foods and unique eats, this program will satisfy a thirst for knowledge.

Summer Reading Registration Continues

There's still time to register for the Oak Lawn Public Library's annual Summer Reading Program. This year's shared theme for kids, teens and adults is "Reading Is So Delicious." Take part in fun activities and reading enjoyment, while earning great prizes. Participants are placed in an age/ability/grade specific group with a designated reading goal. Prizes include coupons, gift certificates, treats from local businesses, books and fabulous items offered in prize drawings. A large variety of activities are planned for reading club members and their families.

Free Family Movie: "Big Miracle"

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Avenue, will host a free lunchtime screening of "Big Miracle" on Friday, June 22 from 2-4 p.m. Patrons of all ages are invited to bring their lunch and enjoy this true story about a news reporter on a campaign to save a family of gray whales trapped by rapidly forming ice in the Arctic Circle. No advance registration is required. Children under age eight must be accompanied by an adult. This is the first of six Friday family films featured in the library's annual Summer Reading Program.

Monday Movie Club for Teens

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Avenue, will host Crowdsourcing Night: Star Wars Uncut on Monday, June 25 from 6-8:30 p.m. Star Wars fans from around the world remade the original Star Wars, 15 seconds at a time. See it all put together in one hilarious, short attention-span experience featuring bad costumes, animation, toys and more! Plus: A look at other crowd-sourced films.

Movie includes discussion and snacks. Registration is required. 2012, unrated, 124 min.

Free Juggling Show for Families

The Oak Lawn Public Library will host "Catch This!" - a dynamic comedic juggling duo – on Wednesday, June 20 from 7-8 p.m. This family program for all ages will feature performers Nate Beasley and Scott Sivright who will wow audiences with awe-inspiring juggling and side-splitting humor. You might even catch them juggling a few books or delicious perishables. No advance registration is required. All children under eight must be accompanied by a caregiver.

View a complete schedule of library events at www.oaklawnlibrary.org. For additional information, call (708) 422-4990.

Happy 4th of July

As we remember those who are serving our Country.
From the Village of Evergreen Park

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Fireworks Display - Carnival Games
Horseshoe Tournament - Pie Eating Contest
Bingo - Food Vendors - Beer Garden
Bag Tournament - Inflatable Rides
Petting Zoo - Animal Rides - Face Painting
Trackless Train - Disc Jockey

Saturday, June 30th
4:30 - 10:00 p.m.
Fireworks - 9:30 p.m.

Michael Looney Park
77th & Narragansett
Burbank, Illinois

If you need additional information, call the Burbank Park District at 708-599-2070
www.burbankparkdistrict.org

WOMANTALK DISCUSSION

The Center, 12700 Southwest Highway, Palos Park, will host its monthly Womantalk coffee hour and discussion on Tuesday, June 26, from 10 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

Ladies are invited to join the discussion of Simple Abundance and other readings by Sarah Ban Breathnach. There is no cost, but advance reservations are required. Ladies are invited to bring a picnic lunch if they would like to stay after the discussion. Call The Center at (708) 361-3650.

WAYSIDE CHAPEL OFFERS MONTHLY FAMILY SERVICE

A Sunday morning outdoor Family Service will be held on June 24 at 10 a.m. at The Center at 12700 Southwest Highway in Palos Park.

Led by Rev. Chris Hopkins, the service is for families with children of any ages and will reflect God as Father and Mother. Weather permitting, the service will be held out of doors near the main lodge on the west side of Southwest Highway.

For further information, call The Center at (708) 361-3650.

CAMP RODEOS (photo attached of Ranch Campers Sara Kingston and Rachel McBride in camp rodeo)

The Children's Farm in Palos Park, hosts summer camp rodeos on Friday nights June 29, July 20, July 27, and August 10. Anyone interested in The Center's camp program is invited to attend.

The rodeos are the culmination of camp sessions in which children ages 9-17 learn to care for animals and ride horses. Each rodeo begins with the youngest campers parading in and introducing their chosen animals. During camp, each of the campers feeds and cares for one of the farm's animals, which they learn to carry or lead.

The teenage campers then ride in on their horses, whom they have cared for and learned to ride during camp. After being introduced, the campers win ribbons for horsemanship and an apple-bobbing rodeo race, plus entertain the audience with a synchronized group riding routine.

Apparent throughout the event is the camaraderie and fun that are an inherent part of the camp program at The Center.

BINGO FOR THE BUDDY WALK

Please join the BINGO for the Buddy Walk Fundraiser to benefit The Signing Time Foundation and the National Down Syndrome Association Support Buddy Walk 2012.

Lil Miracles and the Buddy Walk have partnered to bring Emmy nominated TV personality Rachel Coleman of Signing Time to Chicago for the very first time. Rachel has been teaching children to use Sign Language to communicate and has been advocating for children with Special Needs for over 10 years.

So, now it is time for her Chicago fans to get a chance to meet her in person and watch a FREE concert at the Chicagoland Buddy Walk on October 14, 2012 at Cantigny Park. This BINGO fundraising event will help make the concert possible as well as make it FREE for all of Chicagoland to enjoy.

Come to Papa Joes in New Lenox on June 29th to play BINGO. Doors open at 6:00p.m. Games start at 7:00p.m. Also, come shop some local small business.

We have invited IN.PURSINATORS. SCENTSY, and COVERED IN CHOCOLATE and TUCKERS DOGGIE DELIGHTS to provide a night of shopping. We will have a 50/50 Split the Pot as well as some game prizes and door prizes.

Tickets cost is $20 per person and includes 10 BINGO Cards, Pizza Buffet & Soda.

Tickets are available in advance by contacting Monica Blouin monicablouin@signingt imeacademy.com or by clicking on the link below to pay via PayPal.

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Moraine Valley Fine & Performing Arts Center Calendar Announcements:

May 29. Aug. 2
Gallery 2012 Juried Community Art Exhibition
Robert F. DeCaprio Art Gallery Gallery summer hours are 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Thursday and during most performances.

July 9-20 (Performance July 20)
Summer Drama Camp:
An Awesome Theater Experience for Teens Ages 14-18 Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fine and Performing Arts Center
$395 includes instruction by professionals, lunch, t-shirt, and commemorative photo

This camp is an exciting 10 days for the beginning teen actor to the more advanced actor who wants serious training.

Intensive study of all aspects of theater includes: acting, musical theater, improvisation, movement/ choreography, stage combat, lighting and sound, costume design, and set design.

Students will present a final production that will showcase all areas of study. They will be responsible for all aspects of the production (performance, technical and marketing).

July 20
Jazz Ensemble
Hot Summer Jazz
7:30 p.m.
Dorothy Menker Theater
Tickets: $12/Adults; $10/ Seniors and Students

July 21
Moraine Chorale and Chamber Singers
Summer Patriotic Concert
7:30 p.m.
Dorothy Menker Theater
Tickets: $12/Adults; $10/ Seniors and Students

July 24
Percussion Ensemble
Summer Concert
7:30 p.m.
Dorothy Menker Theater
Free admission

July 26-28
"A Midsummer Night's Dream"
7:30 p.m.
Outside at the Gateway (Dorothy Menker Theater if inclement weather)
Free admission

The delightful romantic comedy of mismatched lovers, enchanted forests and Puck, the famously mischievous sprite, will play against the dramatic background of the Gateway, a perfect stage for the magic-comic misadventures of the king and queen of the fairies, human lovers and bumbling rustic folk. Bring a picnic basket and a chair or blanket. Food is not allowed in the Dorothy Menker Theater, and alcohol is not allowed anywhere on campus.

For tickets or more information on any performance, contact the Box Office at (708) 974-5500. or visit morainevalley.edu/ FPAC

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Palos Park Public Library introduces photogragher Glenn Carpenter

Moraine Valley Community College's staff photographer Glenn Carpenter will be at the Palos Park Public Library on Saturday, July 21st, at 2:00 pm to lead an informative discussion on how to get the most out of your digital camera through a better understanding of symbols, settings, techniques and tips. Bring your camera, instruction manual, and a full set of batteries to this hands-on workshop.

Call the library to register at 708-448-1530 or visit the library online at www.palosparklibrary.org . The library is located at 12330 Forest Glen Blvd. in Palos Park.

Tinley Park Public Library makes announcements

FRESH FRUIT DESIGNS

The Tinley Park Public Library will host Fresh Fruit Designs on Monday, July 9, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. Chef Rose Deneen will show how to create a fresh fruit centerpiece.

Learn how to shape fresh fruit such as strawberries, watermelon, cantaloupe, and plums to develop a mouth-watering design in a clay pot to take home.

This is a hands-on workshop. Class size is limited and a $5.00 fee is required. Registration begins June 11 and must be done in person at the Checkout Desk. Phone 708.532.0160,ext.3.

The library is located at 7851 Timber Drive. Our website is www.tplibrary.org.

GLUTEN-FREE COOKING

The Tinley Park Public Library will host Gluten-Free Cooking for teens and adults on Monday, July 16, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. Chef Kate Bradley and food-savvy teen Libby Morris will prepare some delicious gluten-free recipes and share tips for eating well with diet restrictions. Recipe and tastings included. Registration begins June 18. Phone 708.532.0160,ext.3.

The library is located at 7851 Timber Drive. Our website is www.tplibrary.org

HUB-BASED NETWORKING STRATEGY AND APPROACH

The Tinley Park Public Library will host Hub-based Networking Strategy and Approach on Wednesday, July 18, 2012 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. Our Job Search series continues with the expertise of professional recruiter Greg David. Find out how to significantly enhance short and long term job search results with this innovative strategy.

There will be time after the program for personal assistance. Registration begins June 20. Phone 708.532.0160,ext.3.

The library is located at 7851 Timber Drive. Our website is www.tplibrary.org

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN

The Tinley Park Public Library will host The Other Side of the Coin on Monday, July 23, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. Learn more about coin collecting with the help of the Oak Forest Numismatic Society.

Learn how to identify unique coins and see some unusual coin examples on display. Registration begins June 25. Phone 708.532.0160,ext.3.

The library is located at 7851 Timber Drive. Our website is www.tplibrary.org.

Acorn Library in Oak Forest announces their programs

Thursday June 21st 6:30
Hip Pain: Evaluating Your Treatment Options Dr. Harun Durudogan, a Board-Certified Orthopedic Surgeon and member of the Bone & Joint Institute at Advocate Christ Medical Center will discuss the facts about today's hip replacements and the latest treatment options

To register, call: 1-800-ADVOCATE (1-800-323-8622) Event Code: 1G13 Registration is limited to 50.

Saturday June 23rd 12:00
Reinventing Space - Redesign Your Home and Yard for Sum Palos Park interior stylist Julea Joseph offers advice on how to redesign your home and yard for the summer months.

Thursday June 28th 7:00
Laughter - Jest for Health of It Experience the physical and psychological benefits of laughing and find out why laughter is the best medicine with Registered Nurse and Certified Laugh Leader, Kathy O'Brien. Register by phone or at the Circulation Desk.

Alsip-Merrionette Park Library offers summer reading programs for everyone

Are you in High School? If you are entering high school (grades 9 to 12) in the fall and have your own valid Alsip-Merrionette Park Library card, be sure to sign up for our teen summer reading program.

You can make required summer reading pay off in a big way. Just be sure to sign-up and fill out a slip each time you read a book between June 16 and July 28. That's it!

No book reports no grades, just great prizes. Stop by the library and join our special summer reading program just for you! You could win a Barnes & Noble NOOK!

Some Enchanted Evening: The Songs of Rodgers & Hammerstein On the Pheasant Run Mainstage until July 22

Fox Valley Repertory kicked off the 2nd Annual Summer Theater Fest in St. Charles with five singers, one baby grand piano, and more than 30 songs as they bring Chicago's critic-acclaimed and Jeff-Nominated Theo Ubique production of Some Enchanted Evening.

Vnlley Rep welcomes Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre of Chicago to bring their brand of young, emerging talent and intimate-style productions to St. Charles with their critic-acclaimed production. Under the direction of Theo Ubique's Artistic Director Fred Anzevino and music directed by Jeremy Ramey.

The audience was in a spectacular mood hearing the great standards of Rogers and Hammerstein such as Carousel, Cinderella, The King and I, Oklahoma, South Pacific, The Sound of Music and of course Some Enchanted Evening. The cast of Some Enchanted Evening features (in alphabetical order): Chad Ballantyne, Amanda Batcher, St. Charles native Danielle Floyd, Amanda Hartley, Matt McNabb with Accompanist and Wheaton native Elizabeth Doran.

Co-Founder and Artistic Director of Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre, Fred Anzevino started the company in 1997 and incorporated it in 2004, when he changed its direction to cabaret theatre, setting a new trend in Chicago.

Some Enchanted Evening runs through Sunday, July 22, 2012. Show times are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 2 p.m. The show is rated PG.. This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, and is sponsored in part by the Kane County Chronicle and Delnor Express Care. Pheasant Run Resort is located at 4051 E. Main St., St. Charles, IL. For tickets, call the Pheasant Run Box Office at 630-584-6342, or visit www.ticketmaster.com. Performance information may be obtained at www.foxvalleyrep.org.

Dancing Queen is not just all ABBA

by Annette Dixon

I know all the ABBA fans are looking for the entire show of ABBA, but I personally thought this was a great performance of enthusiastic dancers and vivacious looking men and women. The first half of the show treated us all to ABBA music and a 70's Medley with the music of the Bee Gees, Sister Sledge, Irene Cara, Rose Royce and Village People.

Act two consisted of Soul Medley and Motown and this was the climax of a superb performance of the four sensational singers Mandy, Jillian, David and Justin. You still have time to order your tickets at www.RiverfrontTheater.com or by phone, 888.556.9484. The show ends on June 24th at Chicago's newest entertainment destination. This is their second season the performance schedule is Wed., Thurs., Fri., Sat. and Sun. cost of tickets are $35 to $75.

Eastland: A New Musical

by Annette Dixon

If you are not familiar with the tragedy that took place July 24, 1915, prior to the performance, at least an hour before the play, check out the exhibit of artifacts from the SS Eastland on display in the Water Tower Visitors Center.

On July 24, 1915 the S.S. Eastland sits on the Chicago River between Clark St. and LaSalle, overflowing with passenger. Slowly the boat leans to port and keeps leaning, until finally it tips and comes to rest on its side.

Eastland A new musical tells the beginning of the story with American Folk Music which weaves the stories of various individuals who have been on the ship. The ticket number book is what they used to keep track of the bodies. When bodies where found, the identification was made by a family member, friend or whoever could be located through resources of fellow friends or those who survived.

The play marked an indelible image of the actual sinking of the ship. Artistic Director Andrew White along with the music by Andre Pluess and Ben Sussman, directed by Amanda Dehnert, brought the play Eastland a new Musical to a real journey for Lookingglass Theater Company at Water Tower Works, 821 N. Michigan Avenue.

The cast all sang at one time or other, their voices were as extraordinarily great as well as their acting abilities. Eastland is based in part on events recounted in Jay Bonansinga's The Sinking of the Eastland: America's Forgotten Tragedy.

The play will continue until July 29th on Wed., Thurs. Fri. Sat. and Sun.Tickets start at $34 and you can get more information online at wwwJookingglasstheatre.org or call for tickets by phone at 312-337-0665. The Lookingglass box office is at 821 North Michigan.

Photo of Brian and puppet compliments of Broadway in Chicago

Henson Alternative Stuffed and Unstrung appeared at the Bank of America Theatre for one week June 12-17, 2012. The production was produced by West Beth Entertainment and Henson Alternative. Stuffed and Unstrung was created by award winning director, producer, and writer Brian Henson, and actor and improvisational guru Patrick Bristow and featured the Miskreant puppets and The Jim Henson Company's renowned puppeteers.

Goodbye Cruel World

by Annette Dixon

Thank you Madeline for introducing me to The Strange Tree Group. I can understand why they selected this particular play. After looking over the Strange Tree Group Production History, I justed smile and understood why they chose this play.

Goodbye Cruel World has only been performed twice,once in New York at the Arclight Theater and of course Jason Zinoman of the New York Times raved, "A rarely produced gem..Robert Ross Parker's target is pure, silly farce. And he hits it, dead on." Do I know what this means, of course. Not only do I know Russian History but have personally visited the country in a bus. My friend understood this farce also. We had many laughs throughout the play.

Six actors played 27 different parts and there were 38 costume changes, in itself this was ideally interesting.

Goodbye Cruel World was adapted from Nicolai Erdman's 1928 play "The Suideide". Joseph Stalin sent the playwright to Siberia before the thing could ever be produced. The tonality of the play could disturb the Marxist Dictator to such a degree to send Erdman off before a revolution can occur.

Strange Tree Group brings the Stalin Banned Side Splitting Sausage filled, Suicidal Story to Chicago. I'm sure something also was lost in translation but even so, the farce about suicide was funny.

Currently playing at Wit, 1229 W. Belmont Ave. through July 22. Tickets are $25 and $15 for industry offered on Thurs. and Sun. and $13.50 for student with ID. Call 773-975-8150).

Crafters Corner

Crafters Wanted

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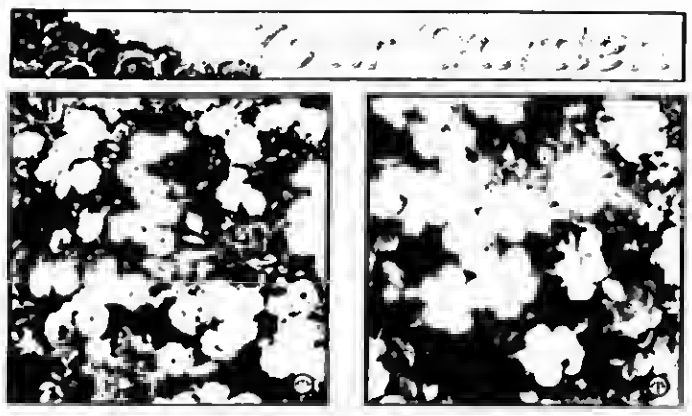

You can now get roses that resist cold, disease and poor soil...and even grow with no thorns.

Eco-Friendly Rose Bushes

(NAPSA)-Beloved since antiquity, the sweet fragrance, bright color and showy flowers of the rose have inspired poets, painters and gardeners alike. Even the notoriously thorny stems have always been accepted as nothing more than a minor inconvenience, a small sacrifice for such beauty. In the past few decades, however, the rose's requirements of careful pruning, frequent pesticide applications and liberal amounts of fertilizer may have dampened some gardeners' enthusiasm for this "queen" of all flowers.

Fortunately, rose breeders sensed the growing dissatisfaction and were ready with something totally new: landscape roses. Unlike the more familiar high-maintenance types, these hardy, vigorous roses shrug off disease, don't require pruning or deadheading and are adaptable to all types of climates and soil. Extremely easy to grow, landscape roses make showy specimen plants and combine readily with other shrubs as well. Landscape roses are available in an array of gorgeous, can't-pick-just-one flow_er colors. And here's what may be the best part: They bloom for months instead of weeks, covering the plant with color from the first early summer blossoms until a hard frost.

Landscape roses from Proven Winners come in two distinct groups, each with its own characteristics. The Oso Easy series consists of several low-growing tidy varieties, ranging in height from just 1' up to 4' tall. It contains the hardiest landscape roses available, with several varieties tolerating temperatures as cold as -35 degrees F. The colors range from the deliciously delicate Peachy Cream to the luscious pink of Strawberry Crush. Bolder colors are found in Paprika, with rich orange and yellow petals, Cherry Pie, a saturated bright red, and the tropical orange-pink of Mango Salsa. The series is equally at home in decorative containers, perennial gardens or foundation plantings. You can plant several together for an unusual, fast-growing ground cover.

The Oso Happy series is characterized by plants that bear clusters of small but numerous flowers. Oso Happy Petit Pink is an American Rose Society award winner and is a mass of small, pure pink, petal-packed flowers all summer long.

The newest addition to the series, Smoothie, is a thornless rose. Its unique magenta and white flowers are borne atop completely smooth stems, making it fun for flower arranging and extra safe around children and pets. You can try roses in perennial beds, mixed with other shrubs or for an unexpected informal flowering hedge.

Landscape roses should be planted where they get at least six hours of unobstructed sunlight each day. In warm places, however, a bit of afternoon shade makes flowers last longer. Because the plants are so disease resistant, they'll never require spraying. Their growth habit is much more compact than that of traditional varieties, eliminating the need for pruning. However, a light trim in early spring along with an application of granular fertilizer encourages new growth and more flowers all summer long.

The extreme disease resistance and nearly nonstop floral display of these plants often means that the flowers have little of the classic rose fragrance. However, when paired with other fragrant plants, such as Bloomerang reblooming lilac, phlox or sweet autumn clematis, the result is a more colorful, flower-filled garden that can be the envy of the neighborhood.

For more_information about landscape roses and reblooming lilac, visit www.provenwinners.com.

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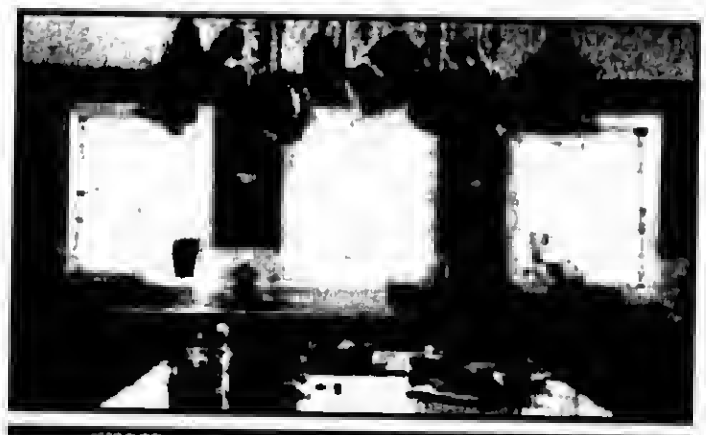

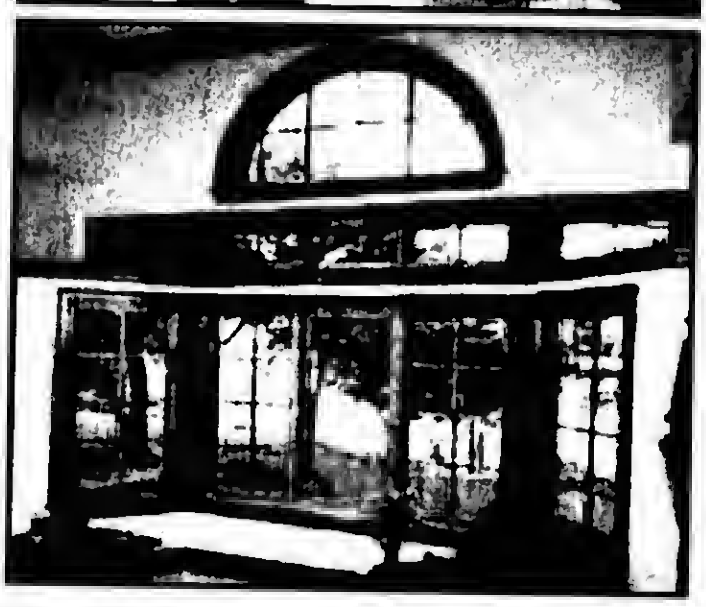

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SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 39 | Number 1 | July 3, 2012

Burbank, Evergreen Park, Hickory Hills, Justice, Oak Lawn

Justice announces 2012 student scholarship awards

by Jan Glaz

The Village of Justice took pride in presenting the 2012 Scholarship Awards on June 25th at the regularly scheduled President and Board of Trustees Meeting. Five outstanding students received an award of $500.00 each to be used toward their freshman-year college expenses. Trustee Kinga Bartoszek proudly introduced each student, their accomplishments, and their future scholastic goals.

The first student to accept the award Linda Mikos was introduced as an Illinois State Scholar, recipient of the Presidential Award for Academic Excellence, captain and most valuable player of the volley ball team; she will seek a degree in Mathematics. The second; Magdalena Bryja also an Illinois State Scholar, and recipient of a Presidential Academic Excellence award plans to pursue a degree in Biology and ultimately, Medicine; third recipient, Brandon Palmer, class president for four years and three time sports athlete on the honor roll will pursue a degree in physical education; Christina Villalpando was introduced next she had also received a Presidential Academic Excellence award and her goal is to pursue a degree in Special Education, a calling she became aware of after working with the Special Olympics Team. The final award was presented to Amber Vaughn who is an award recipient in the field of robotics, an Argo D.J. and Director of the news for the Argo radio station, the distinguished amateur artist plans to receive a degree in nursing. Congratulations, ovations, and refreshments followed the presentations.

Trustee Melanie Kuban gave dire warnings related to traffic violations. She announced that the State of Illinois in July will begin total radar highway toll way patrol; citations will be delivered in August. One mile over the limit and cameras will take a picture of your license plate and your face, you will receive for a first offence, in a work zone, a $375.00 ticket; the second offence is an $8,000.00 fine and 90 day suspension, in addition points will be attached to your license which will allow insurance companies to raise your rates. "These cameras work 24/7", said Kuban. Trustee Kuban then reported that the village immobilization program had commenced. Over one dozen vehicles have been impounded thus far and over $12,000.00 collected.

End Notes: J.W. Menswear won approval for a license to transfer a home based business into a storefront establishment, 8300 S. 88th Avenue. A motion was also approved for an ordinance relating to the Kamp Justice Re-subdivision of real property located at 8801 South 86th Avenue, Justice, Illinois

Tree infestation speading in Hickory Hills

by Jan Glaz

It was announced at the Hickory Hills City Council Meeting June 18th that an estimated 300 Ash Trees in the village right-of-way will be removed due to the Ash Borer beetle. In addition, the Public Works department estimates that 1000 Ash trees, located on private property, are in danger. The presence of the beetle in Hickory Hills has been confirmed by the Department of Agriculture. In 2011 the city began removing the Ash trees in the right-of-way, infected or not. Director of the Public Works Department, L. Boettcher, related that it takes anywhere from three to five years to kill a tree.

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) beetle is present in firewood, Ash wood packing material, Ash wood debris and trimmings, including chips. These materials can spread the infestation even if beetles are not visible. It lives in firewood, move firewood and you spread the destruction. Residents should be aware of the signs of infection in their ash trees; yellow, thin or wilted foliage; unusual woodpecker presence and pecking holes; D-shaped beetle exit holes; shoots growing from roots or a tree's trunk, often with larger-than-normal leaves. Boettcher confirmed that in the fall the city will follow the 2011 tree removal program in an effort to eliminate 300 Ash trees. As far as cost to the city, "Grants that are available are for replacement trees only and not for removals," said Boettcher.

Alderman Zimmerman related that during extreme temperatures residents were using too much water. The village has only a certain water allotment and the water reservoirs were balancing out during the heat. Restrictions will be strictly enforced between the hours of noon and 6 p.m., this applies to everyone. Odd even days allows for sprinkling before noon and after 6 p.m., which means if your house is an odd number on an odd number day you can water and vice versa.

Before the meeting adjourned, Mayor Howley reported a tentatively scheduled customer appreciation day on Saturday July 14th at 10 a.m. at the Shell Station located at 95th and Roberts Road. Customer appreciation begins with the raising of the American flag; the flag of Hickory Hills will fly at its side and there will be free food along with other activities. Residents can call the village hall 708-598-4800 or check the village website http://hickoryhillsil.org for information. Howley also mentioned the village is working with a website designer for a 'job board' for the city's website due to the village receiving job postings from various businesses.

Grow Smarter at the Children's Museum

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Download a membership form at Membership Application for details. And, for your convenience, you can purchase your membership on-line by going on the website. The Association of Children's Museum reciprocal benefits guidelines are the following: Information on the ACM's Reciprocal Program (the $110 Membership Level).

The Children's Museum in Oak Lawn
5100 Museum Drive Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453
Telephone: (708) 423-67091 Fax: (708) 423-6723
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while-learning" experiences.

Every program and every exhibit at the Children's Museum is created with the Illinois Learning Standards at their core. These standards are the same standards that the Illinois Board of Education requires local school districts to use when developing local curriculum.

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FAR SOUTH EDITION

Volume 10 | Number 13 | July 3 , 2012

Oak Forest, Orland Park, Tinley Park

Oak Forest looking to cash in on gambling

by Jan Glaz

Video Gaming and the revenue it will generate sparked a debate at the Oak Forest City Council Meeting on Tuesday, June 26th. City Clerk Scott Burkhardt announced that gaming application requests from businesses cannot move forward until operating restrictions are removed from two city codes and the council agreed to amend the codes. Above and beyond the $500.00 licensing fee for each video gaming machine aldermen discussed the possibility of collecting a percentage of the 35% profit allowed business owners who qualify for a gaming license.

Although alderman Toland claimed that the city is not doing this as a revenue maker and only as an avenue to allow businesses to compete in the market place, Alderman Peter Muscarella voiced an opposing view. Muscarella stated that he understood the owner of the establishment and the distributor both receive 35% of the gross profit, the city receives 5%, and the State of Illinois 25%. Muscarella then questioned if it was possible that within the 35% bracket earned by the owners for the city to take an additional portion of the profits. The city attorney revealed the only limitation the city has is on non-home rule units, which means that the city does has the ability as a home rule unit to partake in the group sum, if not the entire sum, of the revenue the businesses achieve. "I believe we have the authority as a home rule community to levy an amusement tax, an additional amount on these machines if the council so does desire," said Mayor Kuspa. The city council will further explore possibilities and make a decision at a later date.

Opening the budget to spend: Many city vehicles are in dire need of replacement, and before the meeting adjourned, the Board of Trustees agreed to lift former constraints on the budget by approving to purchase (5) new squad vehicles, a Ford F350 Pickup and a 4x4 Explorer via the Suburhan Purchasing Cooperative, also a 2013 Chevrolet Tahoe Command Vehicle.

Orland Park approves destruction of recordings

by Jan Glaz

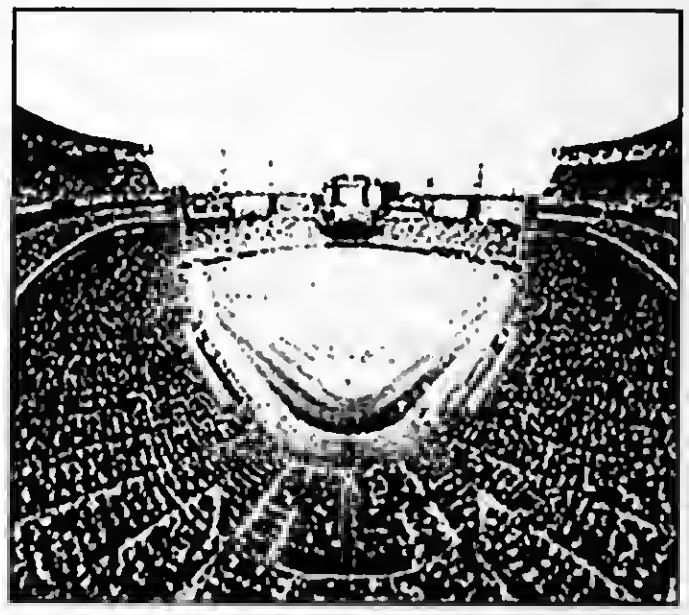
On June 18th at the Village of Orland Park Board of Trustees Meeting the Board agreed that pursuant to Public Act 93-0523, Section 2.06, of the Open Meetings Act the verbatim record of a closed meeting may be destroyed eighteen months after the completion of the meeting if the Board of Trustees of the Village of Orland Park approves the destruction of a particular recording and it approves written minutes for the particular closed meeting that contain the following: The date, time and place of meeting; the members of the public body recorded as either present or absent; and a summary of discussion on all matters proposed, deliberated, or decided, and a record of any votes taken.

Cost of Emergency: The Global Connect Emergency Notification System, in use by the Village for one year, received a positive vote to renew the contract which expired on June 1, 2012. To date the Village has placed approximately 100,000 calls using the system. It has been reported to have been activated on 28 occasions to notify the public of watering restrictions; a criminal sexual assault investigation; residential ruse burglary alerts; a missing child and neighborhood beat meeting notifications. The annual renewal cost of the system id $0.55 per household or business. This is the same cost as last year with no price increase; for an estimated 24,500 households and businesses and provides unlimited calls and email. The system also provides the ability for a resident to opt-in and receive the emergency alerts as a text message on a smart phone. The cost is $0.25 for each opt-in cell phone number to receive text messages and is billed separately at the end of the contract term. $16,000 is budgeted for the annual service.

Item of Interest: Orland Park Police will enforce the "Boot" at the end of June. Police Chief Tim McCarthy informed the Board of Trustees that people having three unpaid traffic violations will be the recipients of a tow or boot. Residents in violation will receive notification from MCA Management Collection Agency informing them of the action to be taken if they do not pay or request a hearing. Nonresidents who have 3 unpaid violations will also receive the notification by mail and similar action of tow or boot will be taken when they visit the Village of Orland Park.

Chicago Petroleum Council tees up for Together We Cope

Mokena resident Lou Filosa of the Chicago Petroleum Council is joined by Vicky Custard (right), president of the Chicago Oilmen group, in making a $1,000 donation to Together We Cope. Accepting the check during the group's recent golf outing at Silver Lake Country Club in Orland Park is Karen Moran (center) of Evergreen Park, TWC fundraising manager. "We are happy to support Together We Cope as it works so hard to help families who are in trouble in this economy," Filosa said. Further information is at www.togetherwecope.org.



Everyone is invited to take advantage of the discounted tickets for the Village of Orland Park 's Grand Slam Event with the Chicago White Sox on Tuesday, August 7. Order forms are available at all village buildings and in the document center of the village's website at www.orland-park.il.us. (Photo courtesy of the Chicago White Sox)

Village of Orland Park Grand Slam event planned for U.S. Cellular Field

The Village of Orland Park 's Grand Slam Event with the Chicago White Sox has become an annual favorite for baseball fans throughout the region. The Tuesday, August 7th 7:10 p.m. home game against the Kansas City Royals is this year's event for Orland Park .

"The White Sox have invited Orland Park to participate in a grand slam group event for the last few years and we invite people from throughout the region to be a part of this evening of baseball," said Orland Park Mayor Dan McLaughlin. Attendees need not live in Orland Park to order the discounted tickets.McLaughlin will throw out the game's first pitch following the presentation of colors by members of Orland Park Boy Scout Troop 383.

Specially priced White Sox tickets are available for the game with lower box seats being available for $20 . and upper box costing $11.Ticket order forms for the 7:10 p.m. game are available at all village buildings and on the village's website at www.orland-park.il.us. Tickets may also be ordered on line at www.whitesox.com/orlandpark or by calling Ticketmaster at 866-769-4263 and using the code "OPN."

"The White Sox have put together a nice package for the game," McLaughlin said. "Along with specially priced tickets, families can order parking passes and hot dog value meals, making it a reasonably priced outing," he said. "And, this year the 'Orland Park White Sox Fan' t-shirt is back for people to order," the mayor added.Tickets will be mailed to the provided address and all game times and promotions are subject to change.

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SOUTH SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 13 | Number 13 | July 3, 2012

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

Worth residents report drug problem

by Matt Mayer

Three women addressed officials at the June 19 Worth Board of Trustees meeting regarding drug dealers selling their drugs near an apartment complex at 107th Street and Depot Avenue. One woman said that they are throwing drugs over the fence between 2 p.m. and 2 a.m. near her apartment. They drive up in their Bentleys or beater cars and are gone in two minutes. The women said police officers have told her not to confront them. Another woman who is a 50-year resident said this is a real problem. She said her granddaughter had recently came over at 6 p.m. and asked her what was going on with all the druggies. She also said her son has seen them in their apartments and they wait to sell their drugs in front of her building. Police Chief Martin Knolmayer said officers respond to every call and police have been called to the apartment complex regarding drug problems. Police have made arrests, but the alleged drug dealers leave quickly making it difficult to obtain a license plate number to make an arrest, said Knolmayer. Two people were however arrested the night of the meeting regarding drug issues at 107th and Depot Avenue, said Knolmayer

Other highlights: Officials approved an Intergovernmental agreement with the Park District and authorized the Village President Randy Keller to draft the agreement. Ordinance 12-09 prohibiting the use of ground water as a potable water supply by the installation or use of potable water supply wells or any other method within a 300 foot radius of 11101 S. Harlem Avenue was approved as well as Ordinance 12-10 amending Title 10 Police Regulations Chapter 1 Police Department Section 10-1-3 of officers of the village municipal code and ordinance 12-11 adopting the prevailing wage standards for the Village of Worth.

Other village news: In accordance with Senate Bill 2106 effective January 1, 2012 prohibiting E-waste from going into land fills, the following items are not allowed to be placed with regular garbage for pick up: personal computers, laptops, monitors, printers, televisions, keyboards, electronic mice, modems, hard drives, CD Rom/zip/tape drives, VCRs, DVDs laser disc players, copy/fax/scanner machines, palm organizers/hand held games, video game players, digital converter boxes, cable/satellite receivers, and covered electronic devices.

If the law is broken, substantial penalties and fines will apply. Addition information may be obtained by telephoning the EPA at 312.353.2000 or by visiting the following websites www.illinoisrecycles.org/byteback_list.html www.epa.gov/wastes/conserve/materials/ecycling/donate.htm A request from Chicago Victory Church to hold their Tag Days on July 27 and 28 was also approved.

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Rep. Bob Rita Says $6.5 Million in Southwest Suburban. Chicago Road Projects in Full Summer Swing

More than $6.5 million in seven Southwest Chicago and suburban area road

State Rep. Bob Rita (D-Blue Island) reviews a local road improvement project and bridge improvement projects are in full summer swing, according to State Rep. Bob Rita (D-Blue Island) who successfully sought state funding for the local upgrades June 11, 2012. The following projects are at various stages of progress across the southwest region are: Bridge deck sealing on I-57 from US30 (Lincoln Highway) to I-96 in Matteson, Posen, Dixmoor, Country Club Hills, Blue Island and Chicago. Patching and resurfacing on IL-1 from 152nd Street to 127th Street in Riverdale, Chicago and Harvey. Milling, resurfacing, storm sewer installation, guardrail, traffic signals and striping on Ashland Avenue between Broadway Street and Thornton Road in Blue Island, Dixmoor and Riverdale. Bridge deck and crack sealing on various routes in the28th District. Bridge deck and crack sealing on overhead bridges on Dan Ryan, Bishop Ford and Stevenson Expressways. Traffic signal modernization on IL 43/Harlem Avenue at Wheeler Drive and 157th Street in Orland Park.

Chicago Ridge discusses Oak Steel sewer request

by Matt Mayer

In a telephone conversation regarding the June 19 Chicago Ridge Board of Trustees meeting, officials discussed Oak Steel Supply Company/Acorn Medal Services owner Kenneth Linderborg's telephone call requesting the sewer fee on their monthly water bill be eliminated since the company's waste water going into a septic reservoir and their waste conduits are not connected to the sanitary sewer system. Officials have confirmed that Oak Steel isn't connected to the sanitary sewer but said the company must continue payment of the sewer portion on their water bill. Village Clerk Chuck Tokar and Village Engineer Chris Burke considered having the company connected to the sewer system after inspecting the property. From an engineering point of the view, Burke doesn't believe the matter should be pursued.

In accordance with the sewer ordinance, which was approved in the 1980's, the sewer line must be within 200 feet from a building. There is an issue whether the sewer line is 200 feet from the building. It could be 210 feet or more and if the village were to force Oak Steel to connect to the sewer system, it may cost the village money to extend the sewer line an additional 10 feet or more, said Tokar.

In other business, the village board approved a request from Public Works Director, Doug Koehlers, to hire Mike Cahill and Jason Callan for the summer. A request from Fire Chief Robert Muszynzki to allow deputy fire chiefs to take their vehicles home was tabled and will be reviewed at a later meeting.

Muszynski said that due to a reduction in the force, the department now has only two deputy fire chiefs and they are required to work on a rotation basis to cover the extra hours.

They will be able to respond in a more timely manner by keeping the vehicles with them," said Muszynski.

Palos Park receives Eagle Scout plaque

by Matt Mayer

A recent Palos Park Board of Commissioners meeting commenced with the presentation of colors and the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance by Scout Troop 729. The scout troop dedicated an Eagle Scout plaque, which will be permanently displayed in the lobby of the municipal building. Since the troops creation in 1961, 59 members have achieved the esteemed rank of Eagle Scout. The requirements in achieving this rank include demonstrating that one must live by the principles of the Scout Oath and Law in their daily life earning 21 merit badges and demonstrating leadership as evidenced by planning and development of a service project that benefits the community. All of this must be completed prior to a candidate's 18th birthday. Mayor Mahoney applauded the group on their achievements and encouraged the Eagle Scouts to recall and share their stories with future generations.

Other highlights: an ordinance declaring the prevailing wage rate for laborers, workmen, and mechanics employed on public work for the village was approved as well as a resolution authorizing the village clerk to make certain closed session minutes available for public inspection. A request to continue Mid-Iron rezoning to the August 27 Village Council meeting and a request from Coopers Hawk Winery and Restaurant to provide and serve alcohol at Autumn in the Park on Sunday, Sept. 15 was approved.

The police department has set up a Teen "no questions asked" Hotline, 708.671.3750 in an effort to reduce the hazards and tragic endings that often occur after teens leave underage drinking parties. Teens are encouraged to call the hotline to report possible underage drinking parties where they may be consuming alcohol and/or drugs and then getting into vehicles and driving away. A police officer will follow up if a tip is reported.

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B-MAC EDITION

Volume 6 | Number 13 | July 3, 2012

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Midlothian plans to break free of Chicago Water

by Jan Glaz

Two Ordinances were approved at the Village of Midlothian Board Meeting on June 27th that will begin the process of eventually freeing the village of Midlothian from paying the escalating water rates stemming from the transmission and purification of water from the City of Chicago. The first, approval of the Ordinance First Amended Intergovernmental Agreement for the Establishment of the South Suburban Joint Action Water Agency (JAWA): The second Ordinance is described on the agenda as Providing for the Execution and Delivery of a Member Guaranty Agreement and for the Issuance of Not to Exceed $330,000 General Obligation Bonds, Series 2012 of the Village of Midlothian, Cook County, Illinois, and for the Levy of a Direct Annual Tax Sufficient to Pay the Principal and Interest on Said Bonds. Mayor Terrance Stephens provided important details regarding the ordinances.

With passage of the first amended ordinance, Midlothian officially joins JAWA and will be uniting with other south suburban communities to extract and filtrate water from Lake Michigan by putting in a pipe, anchored in Whiting, Indiana, that travels across the state line and comes west to serve seven communities including Harvey, Robbins, Markham, Blue Island, Calumet Park, Alsip and Midlothian. The cost is distributed according to the number of towns enrolled in JAWA and the water requirements of each town. Midlothian's usage cost is 6.05% of the total of all water pumped through the pipe.

In reference to the second ordinance, Stephens stated that the $330,000.00 dollar amount starts the project by performing necessary feasibility studies, including engineering, legal work, etc. Also, the authorized Tax Levy will be abated, meaning it will not go onto people's tax bills. This levy is Midlothian's share of a 5.6 million dollar bond to be used for the survey phase, followed by a larger bond, estimated at 400 million dollars, to begin the construction phase. Interest for the first year will be capitalized and Midlothian makes no payment; at the second year the village pays interest only. . "JAWA will primarily pay for itself," said the Mayor. If things go as planned, by the third and fourth year the city will be into the second large bond and at that point the large bond will pay for the first bond. The village has then paid only the interest for the second year. Until completion, the village must depend on and pay for the transmission of water from Chicago but afterward Chicago Water will be utilized only as a backup. In conclusion the Mayor commented, "What we're doing here is for the future of Midlothian."

The meeting adjourned after approval of the consent agenda which included approving the permission to cut short a water main project from 147th Street to Kedzie because starting at Turner Avenue at Kedzie are two contaminated sites from former gas stations. To remove the soil and dump it would be cost prohibitive, the village will halt the project to study other means to replace the water main, without the need to incur a high cost.

Thumbs up for Video Gaming in the village of Alsip

by Jan Glaz

A bevy of business owners, some residents, and a nonresident were present to speak out regarding video gambling at the Village of Alsip Board Meeting on June 18th. A citizen of the village of Crestwood, Janice Gintzler, spokesperson for the Illinois Church Action Against Alcohol and Addictions Program (ILCAAAP) voiced her concern about voting in favor of video gaming, but the odds fell against her as others speakers presented their case. An Alsip resident mentioned the Illinois Lottery being readily available and horse racing, off track betting, doing business in Crestwood, in essence, 'why all the controversy'.

Representatives of businesses operating in Alsip each complained they would lose revenue if video gaming were not allowed in the city because their customers would drive to a neighboring village to play; reference was made that this is not a moral call but about having a fair playing field as gambling is legal everywhere. Another citizen remained neutral about gaming but positive concerning transparency. His complaint addressed the fact that the Alsip Website, Newspaper, or News Letter failed to properly inform Alsip residents about Video Gaming. As listed on the consent agenda: An Ordinance Amending the Municipal Code for the Village of Alsip to Permit Video Gaming in the Village of Alsip met with approval.

Mayor Patrick Kitching announced his veto of the motion approving an Ordinance Amending Section 2 (removal of appointed officers) Division 2 (Mayor) of Chapter 2 (Administration) of the Municipal Code of the Village of Alsip. "I veto this because if it were to become law it would change the village's form of government. This ordinance effectively grants the Board of Trustees the authority over appointments," said the Mayor. He further stated, without a referendum the ordinance encroaches upon the appointment power granted the Village President which the Board cannot legally do. The transfer of public power from the executive to the legislative branch effective without a referendum is unconstitutional according the Illinois Supreme Court. "I veto this ordinance not just for myself as the current elected Village President, but also for future Village President's," said Kitching.

Ultra Foods grand opening is a grand success

by Jan Glaz

The grand opening of Ultra Foods coincided with the Village of Crestwood's regularly scheduled Board of Trustees Meeting, June 21st. The Village Meeting began at 7:00 p.m., the grand opening at 7:30 a.m.; open to the public at 8:00 a.m. The store will remain open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Crestwood location, 13180 Cicero Avenue, is one of the largest stores in the Chain of Ultra Food grocery stores covering 89,000 square feet; it boasts an impressive eighteen lane checkout, four of which are self-checkout. Unique within the store is a sushi bar; also patrons can buy fresh fish, steaks, most anything and employees will grill, fry or steam your purchase. Mayor Robert Stranczek, Fire Chief Jon Bruce, and Village Service Director Bill Graffeo attended the festivities.

Mayor Stranczek, trustees and residents discussed the event prior to the meeting being called to order. It is reported that customers turned out in droves and packed shopping carts and all eighteen checkout lanes to overflow. Children participated in the shopping extravaganza and could be seen pushing small carts with a metal flag attached to it that read 'Customer in Training'. Toddlers drove in large shopping car carts, equipped with two steering wheels for tiny drivers.

Consideration to accept Boonstra Subdivision for property located at 12901 Central Avenue, Crestwood, Illinois and consideration to waive building fees for the Summit Learning Center located at 3940 Midlothian Turnpike, Crestwood, Illinois, for a new roof, met with acceptance by the city council.

Before the brief meeting adjourned the city council directed the Village Attorney to prepare a Special Use Ordinance for ADH Auto Repair & Sales, located at 13509 S. Pulaski Road.

Midlothian Park District poses for pictures at their soft ball game

The Midlothian Park District presented their annual fireworks display, Thunder Over Midlothian, on Friday, June 29 at Memorial Park. The event kicked off at 5 p.m. with music, games, inflatables, food, and glow products. The annual softball competition was between the Village of Midlothian and the Midlothian Park District which took place at Minas Field at 144th & Homan beginning at 6 p.m.

The fireworks was scheduled to begin at 9:30 p.m. Someone had the right to light the fireworks by taking a $1 chance to win the raffle. They were able to set off the fireworks with an authentic explosive plunger. The winner had the "Right to Light" the 2012 fireworks.

The uncertain future of Employer Health Coverage

by Sally Pipes

The average family's health benefits now cost more than $20,000, according to a new report from Milliman, a consultancy. American workers pick up about $8,500 of that tab, and their employers cover the rest.

President Obama's healthcare law may unwittingly offer companies some relief from that obligation — by encouraging them to discontinue offering health insurance. If employers take the bait, then Americans accustomed to getting coverage through work may have to find it on their own.

A new House Ways and Means Committee report estimates that the 100 biggest American firms could save nearly half a trillion dollars over the next decade by dropping health coverage for their employees and foisting them onto public insurance exchanges, which are set to become operational in 2014.

The Committee surveyed 71 Fortune 100 companies and found that they spent $5,197 on health insurance per employee in 2011, on average. The cost of insuring an employee's entire family was, of course, even higher. By the time the insurance exchanges open, the average worker's insurance will cost his employer $6,500.

These estimates may be low. The cost of an employer-based insurance plan has increased by 112 percent over the past decade. And 84 percent of employers expect healthcare costs to increase at rates greater than those they've experienced over the past five years.

Reasons for the increases include Obamacare's provision that insurers keep children on their parents' plans until age 26, the ending of price discrimination for patients with preexisting conditions, and mandated coverage of free preventive care.

Employer-provided coverage is already becoming rarer. A recent study from the Employee Benefit Research Institute found that the number of private-sector employers offering health benefits to their workers has steadily decreased. In 2010, about 47 percent of wage and salary workers reported that they worked for employers that didn't furnish health benefits. Another 15 percent weren't eligible for those available.

Obamacare aims to change that by mandating that all employers with more than 50 workers provide insurance coverage. But it only fines them $2,000 per employee, with certain exceptions, if they don't.

So the cost of insuring an employee in 2014 will be more than triple the penalty for not doing so. That gives employers an enormous financial incentive to scrap coverage.

In 2014 alone, the Fortune 100 companies could save $28.6 billion by dropping their workers onto the exchanges, according to the Ways and Means Committee report. By 2023, the savings could collectively reach $422 billion.

That's good news for the companies — but not for their formerly insured workers. An employee forced onto an exchange will likely see a 79- to 125-percent increase in his premiums, according to an analysis by Lockton, a consulting firm.

The problems don't end there. If American businesses leave the government to figure out how to cover their workers, then the already inordinate costs of Obamacare could skyrocket.

According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), Obamacare is set to spend $450 billion between 2014 and 2019 on subsidies for folks with incomes between 133 percent and 250 percent of the federal poverty line — or between about $30,000 and $46,000 for a family of four.

But those projections depend on employers continuing to offer coverage. If they don't, the cost of the subsidies could more than triple, to $1.4 trillion, according to fomer CBO Director Douglas Holtz-Eakin.

Obamacare could've headed off this crisis by making insurance more affordable. But its many mandates do just the opposite.

For instance, the law limits the availability of high-deductible insurance plans, capping annual deductibles at $2,000 for individuals and $4,000 for families. Many policies featuring high deductibles, and low premiums, will be driven off the market by these rules.

RAND Corporation researchers found that expanding plans like these to 50 percent of the employer market, from their current 13-percent share, could reduce healthcare costs by $57 billion each year.

Obamacare all but guarantees that companies won't be able to take advantage of those potential savings.

President Obama promised Americans that they'd be able to keep their coverage under his reform plan. Those with employer-based health insurance may soon find that's a promise he won't keep.

Sally C. Pipes is President, CEO, and Taube Fellow in Health Care Studies at the Pacific Research Institute. Her latest book is The Pipes Plan: The Top Ten Ways to Dismantle and Replace Obamacare (Regnery 2012).

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We have found that through the years of publishing the readers are interested in general information and also local happenings within their community. Therefore because we are fully electronic, we will not be accepting faxed or mailed news releases.

Enrique Beckman, MD, PhD

MetroSouth Medical Center CEO received an Award for Public Service

Dr. Enrique Beckmann, CEO of MetroSouth Medical Center, received the distinguished Public Service Award at the 71st University of Chicago Alumni Awards Ceremony on June 2, 2012. The University of Chicago Alumni Board of Governors honors alumni, faculty and graduating students for their contributions to society, to the university and to their professions. The Public Service Award was given to Dr. Beckmann in recognition of his contributions in providing access to health care and employment in economically challenged communities.

"It is an honor to be the recipient of this award," says Dr. Beckmann. "The recognition of public service on behalf of employees, physicians, patients and the communities in which I work has brought a stamp of approval unequaled in my career."

Dr. Beckmann has dedicated his professional career to providing access to quality healthcare. Prior to MetroSouth Medical Center, he served as President and CEO of Michael Reese Hospital, formerly a major teaching and research hospital on the south side of Chicago. He maintained a standard of care for patients and restructured the hospital to preserve jobs and services.

Dr. Beckmann was instrumental in helping MetroSouth Medical Center, formerly St. Francis Hospital in Blue Island, IL, to provide quality eare in the communities that it serves.

At the helm of MetroSouth Medical Center, Dr. Beckmann created new service lines, including a Senior Health Center and Heartburn Clinic, and made it the first hospital in the Southland to convert to all private patient rooms. He also advanced obstetrics services with the addition of high-risk perinatologists and neonatologists. It is now one of the Southland's busiest obstetrics departments. In addition, he managed the hospital's transition to electronic medical records and established eleven new community health centers.

"MetroSouth Medical Center congratulates Dr. Beckmann for achieving this high honor and takes pride in having him as its Chief Executive Officer," says Brian Dolan, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, MetroSouth Medical Center.

Dr. Beckmann is a board-certified pathologist. After completing medical school in Colombia and his residency at Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago, Dr. Beckmann received his Doctorate of Philosophy from the Department of Pathology at the University of Chicago.

US Labor Department announces $12 million in grants to provide job training, employment services for formerly incarcerated women and girls

Prologue Inc. of Chicago receives $886,900 grant

The U.S. Department of Labor awarded a total of $12,096,172 in grants to nine nonprofit organizations across the country to provide critical employment and support services for previously incarcerated female adults and youth as they make the transition back into their communities.

"This is a great opportunity for these women and girls to turn their lives around," said Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis. "These federal grants will help them obtain the job training and support services they need to positively contribute to their communities and their families."

Seven grantees have been selected to work with adults and two to work with youth. The funds will be used to provide services including job training that leads to credentials in high-demand industries; employment preparation; mentoring; supportive services such as housing, substance abuse and mental health treatment; family counseling; and assistance with parenting and child reunification.

Providing guidance and support in addition to job training gives previously incarcerated women the stability necessary to improve their educational and employment outcomes, including increasing high school graduation rates, improving literacy and math skills, and entering college and/or other postsecondary training and employment.

Reintegrating formerly incarcerated individuals is a government-wide effort supported by the Federal Interagency Re-entry Council. Chaired by the U.S. Department of Justice, the council brings together numerous federal agencies to advance policies and programs to make communities safer and assist individuals returning to communities from prison or jail in becoming productive, taxpaying citizens.

According to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, women accounted for 25.5 percent of all arrests in 2010, including 19.5 percent of arrests for violent crime and 37.6 percent of arrests for property crimes. Over the past 10 years, arrests of men declined by 6.8 percent while arrests of women increased by 10.5 percent.

Tinley Park Park District announces dates for activities

Classes not guaranteed to run. Please call our main line, (708)342-4200, to verify that classes are running prior to print. If you require more information or would like to attend a specific class, please contact Matt Libs, Marketing Manager at (708)342-4254. **July Tinley Junction Miniature Golf and Batting Cages** July 25: Christmas in July **Preschool Age** July 9-July 13- Spanish Camp For Kids July 11- Dolphins, Sharks and Seashells July12- August 2- Young Rembrandts Preschool Drawing July 12-August 2- Slime and Grime July 25-Scooby Detective Science **Youth Age** July 5- July 19- Spanish or French Language Tutoring July 9-July 13- Spanish Camp for Kids July 10- July 12- Young Rembrandts Pirate Camp July 10- July 31- Slime and Grime for Juniors July 11- Dolphins, Sharks and Seashell for Juniors July 12-August 2- Young Rembrandts Elementary Drawings July 12- August 2-Young Rembrandts Cartooning July 14 and 21- Safe Sitter Babysitting Course July 18- Tye Dye Manial July 21- Hula Dancing July 24-July 27- Young Rembrandts Fashion Runway July 25- Scooby Detective Science for Juniors July 25- The Word of S.C.U.B.A. Diving July 26- August 30- Zumbatomic July 31- Amazing Magic Tricks **Teens** July 5-July 19-Spanish or French Language Tutoring July 6-Canoeing The Fox River July 9-July 13 Beginning Junior Life Guarding Skills July 16-20- Horseback Riding Summer Day Camp July 17-September1- Act Prep Class July 18- Tye Dye Mania for Teens! July 20- August 10- School of Rock: Electric and Bass Guitar Lessons July 23-July 27- Advanced Junior Life Guarding Skills July 25- The Word of S.C.U.B.A. Diving July 26- Medieval Times July 26-August 30- Ballet Fitness **Adults** July 11- All In A Dream Workshop Interpret Your Dream July 12- August 2-Black&White Photography and The Digital Camera July 16- August 6- School of Rock Vintage Rock July 16-25- Microsoft Windows 7: Level 2 July 19- Fondant Basics July 19 and September13- Improving Your Golf Game July 21- August 18-Bell View Acres Horseback Riding July 28- Emotional Freedom Technique **Mature Adults** July 5- Birthday B-I-N-G-O July 5-26-Line Dancing-Beginner July9-30- Intermediate/Beginner Line Dancing July 10-July Ice Cream Social July 13-Rules Of The Road July 17-Senior Luncheons **Health & Fitness** July 2-30-Stroller Fitness July 9-August 13-Bootcamp Group Training July 10-August 14- Kettlebell Cardio July 10-August 7-Yoga Body July 10-August 7-Prenatal Yoga July 12-August 16-Bootcamp Group Training July 23-August 27-Stress Management Yoga July 23-August 27-Boot Camp Circuit July 24-August 28- Cardio Sculpt July 24- August 28-Yoga July 24-August 28-Radiant Lotus QiGong July 25-August 29-Healthy and Fit Seniors July 25-August 29-Stress Management Yoga July 25- August 29-Pilates Matwork July 25-August 29-Kettlebell Aero/Tone Fusion July 26-August 30-Gentl Tai Shi July 26-30-Zumba July 26- August 30-Pilates On The Ball July 26-August 30-Ballet Fitness July 26-August 30-Fitness Yoga July 28-September 1-Pilates Matwork July 28-September 1-Lower Body Blast July 28-September 1- Yoga July 28-September 1-Step Circuit **Tinley Fitness** July 22-August 26-White Water Workout July 22-August 26-Power Step Intervals July 23-August 27-Muscle Madness July 23-August 20-Hath/ Vinyasa Yoga: Level July 23-August 29-Aqua Aerobics July 24-August 30-Aqua Aerobics July 24-August 28-Zumba July 24-August 28-Step Abs Plus July 25-August 29- Muscle Madness July 25-August 29- Zumba July 26-August 30-Step Abs Plus July 26-August 30-Aqua Zumba July 26-August 30-Goup Strength and Power July 27-August 31-Zumba July 28-September 1-Saturday Special July 28-September 1-Jab, Cross, Jab Kickboxing **Athletics** July 4-Stars & Stripes 5K Walk/ Run July 5-September-Women's Singles Recreational Tennis Leagues July 7-September-Men's Singles Recreation Tennis Leagues July 7-September-Women's Double Recreational Tennis Leagues July 9-13-Future Pros Soccer Camp July 9-13-Basketball Camp July 16-19 Lunch and Play Sports Camp July 16-20- Sun Setters Volleyball Camp July 16-20-Volleyball Camp July 20-August 17 for ages 6-10-Youth/Teen Golf Lessons July 20-August 17 for ages11-17-Youth/Teen Golf Lessons July 21-August 18- Parent and Me: Pee Wee Sports July 21-August 18- Parent and Me: T-ball July 21-August 18-Little Tacklers Football Camp July 21 (rain date July 22)- Adult Co-Ed Beach Volleyball Double Elimination Tournament July 23-27- Sunny Days or Rainy Days Baseball Camp July 23-27-Little Dribbler's Basketball C amp July 23-27-Big Dunkers Basketball Camp July 23-26-for grades 3rd-5th –Lacrosse Camp July 23-26- for grades 6th-9th- Lacrosse Camp July 24-August 21-Adult Golf Classes **Arts Alive** July 9-27-Annual Summer Children's Film Camp July 9 and July 26-Audition and Monologue Skills Camp **Vogt Visual Arts Center** July 6-"Cool" Friday Nights at The VVAC July 8-Water Color For Kids! July 15-Water Color for Kids! July 23-August 27-Mosaics July 23-August 27-Dark Room Photography July 23-July 27-Sizzlin Summer Art Adventure July 23-August 27-Portraits July 24-August 28-Rendering with Colored Pencil July 29-Water Color For Kids! July 30-August 3-Sizzlin Summer Art Adventure **July Special Events** July 8-THEstoryCLUB:Stories with Style July 15-THeStoryCLUB:Stories with Style July 18-Movies In The Park-Field Of Dreams July 20-21-Family Camp Out July 27-Girls' Night Out July 28-Comedy Improv And Open Mic Night **Trips** July 25-Secret Chicago July 29-Chicago Symphony Orchestra at Ravinia

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Health care law expands community health centers serves more patients

Obama Administration awards grants to support 219 communities, serve an additional 1.25 million additional patients, create over 5,000 jobs

Detroit, Michigan — At Covenant Community Care today, Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced awards of new grants made possible by the health care law to expand community health centers. The grants awarded to 219 health centers will help expand access to care for more than 1.25 million additional patients and create approximately 5,640 jobs by establishing new health center service delivery sites.

"The health care law is making our community health centers stronger and ensuring more Americans get the care they need," said Secretary Sebelius. Community health centers work to improve the health of the nation by ensuring access to quality primary health care services. The awards announced today total $128.6 million and will go to community health centers in 41 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands.

As community-based and patient-directed organizations, health centers are well positioned to be responsive to the specific health care needs of their community. Through the Affordable Care Act's commitment to expand access to high quality health care for all Americans, these grants will support establishment of new full-time service delivery sites.

"Health centers serve more than 20 million patients nationwide and are an integral part of our health care system," said Mary K. Wakefield, Ph.D., R.N., administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). "These awards demonstrate our commitment to increasing access to quality health care through the creation of new health center sites."

Health centers are also an integral source of local employment and economic growth in many underserved and low-income communities. In 2011, health centers employed more than 138,000 staff including: 9,900 physicians, 6,900 nurse practitioners, physicians' assistants, and certified nurse midwives, 11,800 nurses, 10,300 dental staff, 4,400 behavioral health staff; and more than 12,500 case managers, health education, outreach and transportation staff.

The 5,640 jobs created through the awards announced today will go to doctors, nurses, dental providers, and many other staff supporting services to more than 1.25 million new patients.

Since the beginning of 2009, health centers have added more than 25,300 new full-time positions. The awards announced today will infuse critical dollars into health centers and their surrounding communities, enhancing health centers' ability to serve more patients and creating thousands of jobs across the country.

Eligible applicants included public or nonprofit private entities, including tribal, faith-based and community-based organizations who meet health center funding requirements. Current HRSA grantees could apply as well as organizations applying for the first time.

Health Center New Access Point grants, listed by organization and state, are available at http://www.hrsa.gov/about/news/2012tables/120620nap.html

To learn more about the Affordable Care Act, visit www.healthcare.gov. To learn more about HRSA's Health Center Program, visit http://bphc.hrsa.gov/about/index.html. To find a health center in your area, visit http://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov.

The Barnes Foundation is having a fundraiser for a Cause

The Barnes Foundation's fourth annual signature fundraising event, "Cocktails for a Cause" will benefit The University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center at Silver Cross Hospital in New Lenox, IL. Cocktails for a Cause will be held at CD & Me in Frankfort, IL on Friday, September 28 from 6 to 10 p.m. Tickets are $25, which includes cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and one entry into a raffle for $1,000 (winner need not be present to win).

The event will also include live music, a DJ and a silent auction. Tickets can be purchased at the door or online at www.barnes-foundation.org.

Palos Hills is announcing their activites for the Community Center

If you want to meet new people and have fun, come join us at the Palos Hills Community Center . 8455 W 103rd St . We meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, 12:00 – 2:00 pm. Palos Hills residents, ages 55+, can join any time—no dues required. Tickets for events must be purchased one week in advance. We offer a variety of entertainment: musicians, singers, delicious luncheons, movies, plays and bingo! Something for everyone! We are planning new activities and welcome your ideas and suggestions. Drop in any time to pick up our Recreation Brochure.

Hope to see you at the next meeting.

Blue Island announces events

Cardboard Boat RegattaWhat sounds crazier than making a boat out of cardboard?

Making a race out of it! Prepare for the ultimate race of champions. Men and women alike from all parts of the globe will converge on this day at the Memorial Park Pool with their hand crafted vessels made from a short list of regulated materials.

Few will taste victory, most all will get wet. Date: July 28thTime: 5pmLocation: Memorial Park PoolTeam Registration (one boat): $15Includes admission to Evening swim for your team.

Program #180009c Adult Bean Bag Tournament Simply put, our bag tourney profits go towards a good cause.

Help raise funds for a cause while having a good time and possibly, winning big. Rules: Double elimination, Play to 21, No shutouts, Luck of the draw. Tournaments Sponsored by Double Play Saloon Tourney One: Charity: Blue Island Park District Swing ADA swing set for Kiddie Korral Friday, July 13th Registrations: 6:30p to 7p at the door. Cost: $12 per person ($2 to charity) Where: Memorial Park Pavilion Time: 7pm – 11pm

Tourney Two: Charity: Blue Island Park District Swing ADA swing set for Kiddie Korral Friday, August 10th Registrations: 6:30p to 7p at the door. Cost: $12 per person ($2 to charity) Where: Memorial Park Pavilion Time: 7pm – 11pm Romin' the Island Car Party at the Park Hosted by the Romin' Chariots and the Blue Island Park District

Calling all automobile enthusiasts Whether you own one or dream of them, this night is for you. Over 60+ cars will line up around Memorial Park for your viewing enjoyment.

Enjoy a family friendly night filled with good music, good food, raffle prizes, a "blast from the past" costume contest and amazing automobiles all for a good cause. Raffle prizes will be given to entrants. www.romincharlots.com for registration details. Date: August 4th Time: 4:00pm – 8:00pm Location: Memorial Park Blue Island 12804 S. Highland Ave.

Attention Colleges, High Tech Schools, High Schools, Prep Schools, Private Schooling, Tutoring Classes, Academy's, Grammar Schools, Pre School, Day Cares, who would be interested in talking with me about there school. To get more coverage for your School, call Linda for details at 312-624-8996.

Moraine Valley Community College student Julia Mueller won the 2012 Outstanding Community College Student Geographer award from the Illinois Geographical Society.

Moraine Valley student wins geography award

Geography isn't her major, but Moraine Valley Community College student Julia Mueller excelled in the subject this past year earning her a 2012 Outstanding Community College Student Geographer award from the Illinois Geographical Society (IGS). She was one of four community college students to earn the distinction.

Mueller, an international student from Germany, was nominated for this award by her teacher Dawn Wrobel, adjunct geography instructor, based on a classroom project done the previous year. Mueller turned an individual homework assignment in her Cultural Geography class into an expanded research project entitled "The Impact of Globalization on

Student Consumption Patterns in the United States and Germany." She presented this project in fall 2011 at the National Collegiate Honors Council and received the honor at the IGS conference on April 27.

"It's pretty cool. I didn't expect to win, especially because there are a lot of students who major in geography who win this award," Mueller said. "I was really happy to win. I like geography, and I really liked the class."

The award is given out statewide to students who have shown exemplary dedication to and knowledge in the subject.

Four students from community colleges and four from four-year universities were chosen.

"I was really happy she won this award. I've nominated students over the past 10 years, and this is the first time I've had one win. In my experience the awards have gone to colleges with bigger geography programs. Julia won through taking one course," Wrobel said. "I was really proud of her, an exemplary student at Moraine Valley, and it's nice for her to get this recognition."

Mueller is transferring to Cornell University in the fall where she plans to study industrial and labor relations.

Belinda BylinaYouth Services Librarian

Children's Programs at Palos Park Public Library

These programs are open to card members. Call the library for any questions. Palos Park Public Library cardholders may register online or call the library to register. Call for more details to 708-448-1530.

2012 Summer Reading Program

2012 Reading is So DeliciousUntil August 4thAges toddlers to 8th grade.

Read for a chance to win prizes all summer long. Summer Reading Grande Finale "Food-A-Palooza!" with Chris McBrien Saturday, August 11th ,11:00 am All ages welcome. Join

"The Magic Storyteller" Chris McBrien for hilarious stories, puppets, and magic. Meet a singing chicken, a rat who thinks pizza is a food group, a duck who is "Quackers" for health food, and so much more! Light refreshments will be served following the program. Winners will be drawn for the Summer Reading program. Call the library to register at 708-448-1530

Palos Park Public Library announces music at the Library

The Palos Park Public Library will present An Evening with the Fab Four FAQ: The Beatles Performing Years, 1957-1966 on Tuesday, July 24th, 7:00 pm at the Palos Park Public Library. Author, Beatles collector, and pop culture historian Robert Rodriguez will trace the origins of the Beatles from their early days as The Quarry Men through 1966. This mini-documentary will include rare photos, interviews, concert segments, as well as an audio recording made of The Quarry Men on the very day John and Paul were introduced. This program is a must for fans of the Fab Four! To register for this program, call the library at 448-1530 or visit us online at www.palosparklibrary.org. The library is located at 12330 Forest Glen Blvd. in Palos Park.

Puppies, Pajamas, & Pancakes

Puppies, Pajamas, & Pancakes will be on Saturday, July 14, 2012 10:00AM - 11:30AM at the Don Preston Recreation Center 14500 Kostner AveMidlothian, IL

Once we are done stuffing our puppies, we will make a collar for our furry friend and then enjoy some delicious pancakes! For details call (708) 371-6191.

READ YOUR TAX BILL

Dear Cook County Taxpayer:

As you read this, your 2nd Installment property tax bill for tax year 2011 is in the mail. You should receive it in a day or two.

Read your bill. It will show you the 12 to 20 taxing agencies which claim part of your payment, and how much each agency gets.

Here's how to read your bill. Visit cookcountytreasurer.com or cookcountypropertyinfo.com and:

- **Click "View Taxing Districts Financial Statements"**
- **Enter your 14-digit Property Index Number (PIN)**
- **Click the icon beside each agency name to display its financial information**

That information includes budget and debt figures for your municipality, school district, police and fire districts, library district and other units of government, along with the rate of salary increases and the levy (tax) for each taxing agency – with a percentage figure of levy growth over 10 years.

The data available through cookcountytreasurer.com or cookcountypropertyinfo.com contains the following information for 526 taxing agencies across Cook County:

- **Local government budgeted revenues**
- **Local government outstanding debt and pension debt**
- **Local government 10-year-levy (taxing) history**
- **Percentage of levy (taxing) change over 10 years**
- **Rate of return on investments**
- **Rate of salary increases**

We give you this information online and on your bill because you have a right to see the numbers that make up what you pay. Our latest calculations show the governments of Cook County owe at least $140 billion for pensions and other costs, money which will come out of our payments and our future.

A note: 24 agencies have not fully reported their data, as required by the Debt Disclosure Ordinance which was passed by the Cook County Board of Commissioners. We are working with these agencies to comply with the DDO before they are compelled to do so.

Meanwhile, read your bill when you receive it.

Toni Preckwinkle
Cook County Board President

Maria Pappas
Cook County Treasurer

Candy Days are Here Again!

Volunteers Needed

Every September, Sertoma Clubs raise money during their Annual Candy Days. Our patients are the beneficiaries of Candy Days and so we do our best by volunteering to help make this event a success.

This year, Candy Days are on the 10th and 11th of September. So if you have a couple of hours to volunteer, we'd very much appreciate your help.

We need volunteers for both Friday and Saturday, September 10 and 11.

A commitment for at least one shift (2 hours) is requested.

Both morning and afternoon hours are available.

Tagging locations are in Palos Hills and Tinley Park.

Current volunteers with the Sertoma Speech and Hearing Center, contact Karen Young with your day and time preferences.

New volunteers need to complete a volunteer application before being assigned.

For additional information, please contact Michelle Morrison call for more details

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·(NO TELEPHONE REGISTRATION ACCEPTED)
·Early registration is recommended.
·If you have any questions or want more information please contact us at (708)-361-1873.
·To register, please come in or · Mailed registration forms must be received at Lake Katherine before the program start date.
www.lakekatherine.org

Labor Day in Chicago offers a music filled budget friendly weekend escape

August 31-September 3 events include Annual Chicago Jazz Festival and neighborhood concerts

Looking for an end-of-summer getaway? Make it a low cost Labor Day in Chicago, where a variety of free and affordable events and activities fill the long weekend calendar.

Let the sounds of music surround you – from the parks, neighborhoods and downtown lakefront – or take in the sights indoors and out. Headlining jazz acts in Millennium Park and guided walks through the traditional Mexican-American community of Pilsen are just a few ways to enjoy the last warm days of the season and enjoy Chicago for free.

For trip-planning assistance and help with a customized itinerary, friendly visitor representatives are on hand at Chicago's Visitor Information Centers, across from Millennium Park in the Chicago Cultural Center (77 E. Randolph Street) and at the historic Water Works pumping station (163 E. Pearson Street at Michigan Avenue).
For more information, www.ExploreChicago.org.

Made in Chicago: World Class Jazz FREE August 30

Take in the opening night of the 34th Annual Chicago Jazz Festival with Exquisitely For Ella: A Songbook Tribute at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park at 6:30pm. Songbook recordings Ella made in the 1950s. (www.millenniumpark.org)

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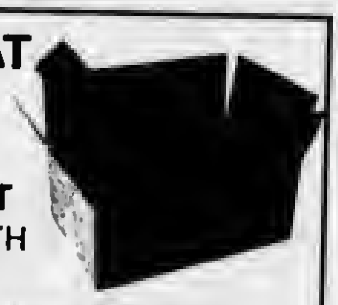

CARDBOARD BOAT REGATTA JULY 28TH

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* Games *
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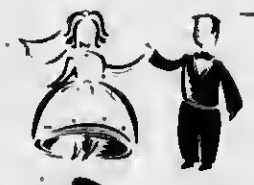
Fine Art FAIR 2012 OPACC

Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce

The Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce presents 2012 Fine Art Fair in partnership with the Village of Orland Park and Orland Park Crossing

11 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday, July 21 & Sunday, July 22
Orland Park Crossing, 142nd Street & LaGrange Road, Orland Park

Join several fine artists for an outdoor fine art fair at Orland Park Crossing shopping center, participate in a community art project or listen to live entertainment. For more information, call (708) 349-2972 or visit www.orlandpark-chamber.org



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Hilton Garden Inn, Country Inn & Suites And
Tinley Park Convention Center
Sunday, the fifteenth of July, Two Thousand and Twelve
At one o'clock in the afternoon
Hilton Garden Inn, 18335 La Grange Rd., Tinley Park, IL 60487
Please RSVP to Angie Gentile, Sales Manager at 708.336.2005 or email angie.gentile@hilton.com. Please RSVP by 7.9.2012

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Check Lake Katherine's website at www.lakekatherine.org/summerprograms. This is a great opportunity also to go on their website and click onto register directly on facebook etc.

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Fine Art Fair 2012 OPACC

Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce

The Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce presents 2012 Fine Art Fair in partnership with the Village of Orland Park and Orland Park Crossing

11 a.m.-5 p.m.
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- Enjoy a 2 hour cocktail and appetizer reception
- Be entered for a chance to win a diamond pendant necklace

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The hidden summer theatre shines in Door County

by Annette Dixon

America's oldest professional resident summer theatre is in Door County, Wisconsin and having their 77th season play. Their theater group is called the Peninsula Players, theatre in a garden, which currently has the play titled, The Nerd, a wonderful, funny comedy with Chicago local equity actors.

Artistic Director, Greg Vinkler has been in 32 productions at the Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Goodman, Steppenwolf, Court and recipient of three Joseph Jefferson awards. It can't get any better than that.

Chicago theater patrons will be happy to hear Paul Slade Smith, actor in Nerd was in the National Tour for Phantom of the Opera, and also appeared at the above mentioned theaters.

A memorable name in Chicago theater is Sean Fortunato, playing Rick Steadman in the Nerd. Linda Fortunato, director of the Nerd and Choreographer, plus actor, make a great team.

The Nerd was written by the late Larry Shue and will be playing until July 22, 2012. There are five plays per season which include Chicago, July 25th through September 2nd and September 5th through October 14 the play is Lombardi, which will close their season for 2012.

The outdoor scenery is landscaped beautifully in close proximity to the theatre. The paved parking and entrance to the theatre is ideal along with the scenic beauty of over 1000 feet of shoreline along Lake Michigan. Brian Kelsey, Managing Director was please to show us the beautiful surrounding of this outdoor playhouse. He explained that they build a bonfire by the lake and have cocktails or whatever one desires.

This may be a bit scaled down from the Ravinia, but the stage is the best I have ever seen for an outdoor theater. Donors have made it possible for the distinguished Peninsula Players to have a new home for they raised $6.5 million dollars toward a $7.2 million dollar campaign to rebuild the theater.

You can check the Peninsula Players Theatre at peninsulaplayers.com and their address is 4351 Peninsula Players Rd., Fish Creek, WI 54212 or phone them at 920-868-3287. This is a do not miss showcase for Door County in Fish Creek, Wisconsin.

"Door County has a treasure in the musical realm that should never be overlooked: Midsummer's Music Festival. The group today is one of the finest ensembles of its type in existence...I can honestly say that this group is unexcelled." John Wilson, Long-Time Supporter.

Home is where the music is and that means Mick and Heather Hellmich held a concert in their home recently in Carlsville, Door County.

Dr. James and Mrs. Jane Jerzak and Drs. Cynthia and Kim Lasecki had the music of Mozart, Haydn, and Beethoven in Jerzak Residence overlooking the rose garden in Green Bay, WI.

The performance on Tuesday, June 26 at Woodwalk Gallery in Egg Harbor was delightful. Many gathered in the gallery and listened to Mozart, Haydn and Beethoven.

The sponsors were Bill and Sue Jacobs.

It was so wonderful and personally I was happy not to be entertained in someone's home.

Midsummer's Music Festival is in Door County, Wisconsin's premiere chamber music ensemble, featuring world class musicians from Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Lyric Opera of Chicago and other groups from many states.

The artistic director is Jim Berkenstock and has been since inception 1991. So much has materialize but more importantly is that his wife Jean has been instrumental with Jim all these years.

Jean and Jim Berkenstock are the musical instigators of the Midsummer's Music and they are Principal Flute and Principal Bassoon at Lyric Opera of Chicago. Another couple I enjoyed hearing is Sephanie Preucil and Walter Preucil, a member of the Lyric Opera of Chicago Orchestra since 1988, he also has a career as a chamber musician. Pianist William Billingham has served as an Assistant Conductor for Lyric Opera of Chicago since 1995 and has played for Midsummer's Music Festival. For more information check the web www.MidsummersMusic.com

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Midsummers Music can be heard in barns refurbished

by Annette Dixon

This is a first for me regarding music and places of venue. Midsummer's Music Festival has many features, artists and places to perform that are out of the ordinary and most extraordinary.

Oak Forest Park District announces their program

The Oak Forest Park District 15601 Central Ave is offering
Floor Hockey Fun!
Thursdays, July 26th thru August 30th. Grades 3 – 5 meet 6:00p to 7:00p and grades 6 – 8 meet 7:00p to 8:00p. The fee is $42R/$55NR . Learn basics of floor hockey and have fun playing games. Boys and girls are welcome. Check out our website at www.oakforestparks.org for more information or call (708) 687-7270.

The Oak Forest Park District 15601 Central Ave is offering
Boy's and Girl's LaCrosse Camp the week of July 9th thru July 13th. The fee is $85R/$105NR camp meets for 1 ½ hours. Times vary depending on grade level. Check out our website at www.oakforestparks.org for detailed information or call (708) 687-7270.

The Oak Forest Park District, 15601 Central Ave, is offering
Camp Fun Time for children ages 4 yrs old by Sept 1st up to and including children entering 1st grade. Each child will be given a T-Shirt to wear to camp. For 3 weeks. Monday and Thursday OR Tuesday and Friday. July 16th 17th thru August 2nd/3rd . Camp meets 10:00am to 1:00pm. The fee is $78R/$94NR. Register now. For further information, please call at Gina Byrnes (708) 687-7270, Ext. 119.

The Oak Forest Park District, 15601 Central Ave, is offering
Camp Enterprise for children entering 1st grade thru 3rd grade. Camp meets Monday and Thursday. July 16th thru August 2nd from 10:00am to 1:00pm. The fee is $78R/$94NR. Register now. For further information, please call at Gina Byrnes (708) 687-7270, Ext. 119.

The Oak Forest Park District,15601 Central Ave, is offering
Youth Volleyball Betterment for boys and girls grades 4 thru 8. Volleyball drills will develop and improve play. Grade 4 and 5 meet Mondays, 4:15p to 5:15p and Grades 6 thru 8 meet 5:30p-6:30p. Classes begin Monday. July 16th thru Aug 30th.
The fee is $42R/$55 NR. Register now.
Questions? Call (708) 687-7270
Check us out online @ www.oakforestparks.org

The Oak Forest Park District ,4412 Henry Street is offering
Young Rembrandts Drawing Classes for ages 5 thru 13 years old meeting at various times in July. Please check out our website at www.oakforestparks.org from detailed info on days, times and fees or call Karen at (708) 687-8882.

The Oak Forest Park District, 4412 Henry St, is offering
Camp Curiosity for children ages 3 to 9 years old. The camp meets Tuesdays and Thursdays starting July 17th thru August 9th and starts at 10:00am to 1:00pm. The fee is $85R/$95NR. For further information, please call at Karen 708- 687-8882.
The Oak Forest Park District, 15601 Central Ave is offering
Girls "Powered" Up July 9th thru July 27th, Monday. Wednesday & Friday from 10:00am to 1:00pm for girls entering grades 6 thru 8. Fee is $90R/$117NR. Increase self awareness and physical fitness. Bring a sack lunch and drink each day. Questions? Call 708-687-7270.

The Oak Forest Park District, 15601 Central Ave. is offering
Mesmerizing Magic on Thursday, July 5th from 5:00p to 5:55pm for ages 5-12. Fee is $20R/$26NR. Children are guaranteed to have a great time as they learn a collection of fascinating tricks! All materials provided and children receive a magic kit to take home. New tricks every session. For more info visit us at Oakforestparks.org or call Kirstin at 708-687-7270 ext. 132.

The Oak Forest Park District .15601 Central Ave. is offering
Fantastic Friday Story Club with Mrs. Brenda. Children 4 yrs old thru 2nd grade. Friday, July 13th or Friday, August 10th 6:00pm to 8:00pm.
Fee: $11R/$14NR per session.
Questions? Call Gina Byrnes at 687-7270, Ext. 119.

The Oak Forest Park District, 15601 Central Ave. is offering
Challenger British Soccer Camp the week of July 23rd thru July 27th. Age groups range from 3 yrs old thru 14 yrs old. Full and half day options available. For more detailed information please check out our website at www.oakforestparks.org or call (708) 687-7270.

Smith Village artists inspire others to enjoy the creative process

Beverly/Morgan Park neighbors invited to view exhibition of seniors' watercolors Artistic talent doesn't always show up early in life. So it's especially delightful to discover a new kind of talent later in life. A good example of this is taking place at Smith Village, a continuing care retirement community at 2320 W. 113th Place in Chicago's Beverly neighborhood. For six months, several residents have participated in art classes taught there by Jack Simmerling, a local artist and co-owner of The Heritage Gallery also located in the neighborhood.

The resulting artistic creations are now on display for neighbors, other Smith Village residents, staff and friends to visit indefinitely. "We started with just two people," Simmerling said in an interview. "Now we have seven artists in our program." Starting on the third Tuesday and following Thursday of each month, the artists meet in an activity room to begin creating watercolor paintings. Simmerling suggests possible subjects by providing photos taken from magazines. The artists select their images, sketch them on acid- free paper, and then begin painting.

"Most completed their first painting by the end of two classes," Simmerling said. "I'm always amazed at their results. Each art student takes a different approach. Last month I was teaching them wet on wet (brush on surface) technique, and one person painted a tree in fog while another, a building. It's wonderful to watch their talent blossom. I'm also getting a lot out of their friendships."

"I like Jack Simmerling as a teacher," says Smith Village resident Louise Hullinger, who enjoys painting colorful florthan you think. I'd say, 'No, this is not so good,' and he'd say, 'Yes it is.' He gave me a lot more confidence.'"

Smith Village resident Sister Regine Fanning, R.S.M., couldn't say enough good things about the classes and spent the duration of the exhibit attempting to recruit other residents like James Williamson and Bob Semmes for future classes. "I've been commenting to people that so few artists are also great teachers, but Jack is both. He really draws the talent out of people."

Both Williamson and Semmes say they will keep the classes in mind, though Semmes already busies himself playing the piano for Smith Village events.

Dorothy Maloney had painted with oils and acrylics before taking Simmerling's classes. "I enjoyed working with watercolors for the first time," she says. "It's a lot like adding water to acrylics."

Alice Clark was pleased with the woodland scene she created and appreciated some additional assistance with mixing colors. "I'd never done water colors but was intrigued," she said. "I enjoyed this very much. Everyone should try it." The artwork will remain on display in the Smith Village Community Hall.

Certain pieces may be purchased, with the proceeds donated to Emilie's Fund, which provides financial assistance to residents who have out-lived their means.

For more information, regarding the art display contact Joy Shields, Smith Village's life enrichment director.

For more information about how Smith Village can help seniors enjoy their retirement, call 773-474-7300 or visit SmithVillage.org.

Hero The Musical performed at the Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire

by Alan Bresloff

The Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire is best known for its ability to take a major musical, no matter the age and rebuild it on their "in-the-round-venue so that their tremendous subscriber base can have a wonderful, entertaining experience. Of late, they have been the first theater of its type to get rights to Broadway shows ready to hit smaller theaters, but now have taken on a new challenge: creating their own show, from scratch. Over the years many subscribers have tired of seeing new versions of the old standards that have made Marriott what it is, so they have decided that the time is right to open up new streams of entertainment for their audience- thus, the current production, "Hero The Musical" hit their stage in its premiere production. Written by Aaron Thielen (who is lead Artistic Director at Marriott and who at one time graced their stage as an actor himself) with music and lyrics by Chicago favorite Michael Mahler (an wonderful performer with musical talent- many may recall his marvelous "How Can You Run With A Shell On Your Back" written with Alan Schmuckler) that played at Marriott after playing to sold out audiences at Chicago Shakespeare Theatre many summers ago. Mahler is a brilliant musician with the ability to come up with clever lyrics to help a story convey its message.

Under the sterling direction of David H. Bell, who is more a choreographer than director, the only problem with this musical, which by the way is not a musical comedy, but in fact, a story with music, is that is best suited to be on a regular stage with a set that can be in one spot for the duration. There were times, in this tight little show that our view was blocked by either a part of the set itself or the characters having to face each other- on a regular stage, this would not have taken place and sight lines would have been far greater (although we would lose some of the intimacy this story has). Thomas M Ryan's set and rotating stage area is wonderful, but it is limited to the space available. Jesse Klug's lighting, Sally Weiss' properties, Robert E. Gilmartin's sound and the costumes by Nancy Missimi and Erin Wuorenma, as usual are the top-notch production services we associate with Marriott Theatre, but in reality it is the story itself and the cnst assembled that makes this show truly work!

The story is about a young man, a talented artist named Hero Bntowski, who lives with his father in Milwaukee. Hero (a solid performance by Erich Bergen) works for his father, Al Batowski (deftly handled by Marriott favorite Don Forston) in his comic book store. Hero has been trying to get DC (one of the biggest in the comic book industry) to hire him on as an artists, but to no avail. His cousin Kirk (the hilarious Alex Goodrich, who just keeps getting better) takes him out on the town where he bumps into his high school sweetheart Jane (Heidi Kettenring who is as adorable as ever and whose voice gets stronger as the years go on) as they resume their lost love of their youth. There are many little stories in this larger story, dealing with knowing all the facts,forgiveness, love, adoration, adjustment and finding oneself and their way in life.

The songs in this story with music are all fitting and apt and yet, we do not leave the theater humming anything at all. In fact, we leave the theater, after viewing this heartwarming story, one that takes us down, makes us laugh and makes us cry, with a good feeling about life and that the choices we make in life are exactly that choices, but ones that can be adjusted- yes life can experience changes and alterations. The story is one that takes a bit of time to evolve in full and the second act is much stronger than the first. I know that this show was "showcased" (tried out in readings to various audiences) before heading to the big stage, and I am sure that Marriott will look at what people say about the final production before they decide to go even further with this show. I think it can be a show that will do well for many years, once they get a few things cleared up.

This cast is what makes the show as powerful as it is. Besides Bergen, Kettenring, Forston and Goodrich, we have Dana Cameron (she is adorable, funny and just perfect) as Susan, a schoolteacher, prim and proper who meets Kirk and breaks out of her shell to live the life she always dreamed of; young Jonah Rawitz as Kirk's younger brother Nate. Rawitz is dynamite, adorable, funny and the kid you just want to hug and send to his room; and a small ensemble of solid performers including Michael Aaron Lindner and Alex Goldklang as sort of the Lenny and Squiggy characters who hang out at the comic book shop instead of leading lives and Kelly Abell, Summer Naomi Smart and Jameson Cooper (they take on many roles and help change set pieces to keep the show swiftly moving along)

The musicians are few, but with great sound, under the direction of Ryan T. Nelson and while the songs are not memorable, there are several wonderful lyrical songs, "There is Wonder All Around", "That's my Kryptonite" and "Time Flies By" all have some inner meaning that contribute to the beautiful, heartfilled story. "Hero" will continue at the beautiful Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire through August 29th with performances as follows:

Wednesdays at 1 p.m. and 8 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 4:30 and 8 p.m. and Sundays at 1 and 5 p.m.

Tickets range from $40-$48 with some performances having student and senior discounts of $5- dinner/ theater packages are available for some performances at $55 plus handling (a real baragin as Marriott food service is terrific) Free parking is always available and valet parking is available as well. To order your tickets for this wonderful experience, call Marriott Theater Box Office at 847-634-0200 or visit www.ticketmaster.com

Marriott Theatre is located in Lincolnshire at The Marriott Resort, 10 Marriott Drive (just south of Route 22/Half day Rd and East of Route 21/ Milwaukee Avenue) in Lincolnshire

For more info, visit Hero www.theatreinchicago.com www.HeroMusical.com or www.MarriottTheatre.com

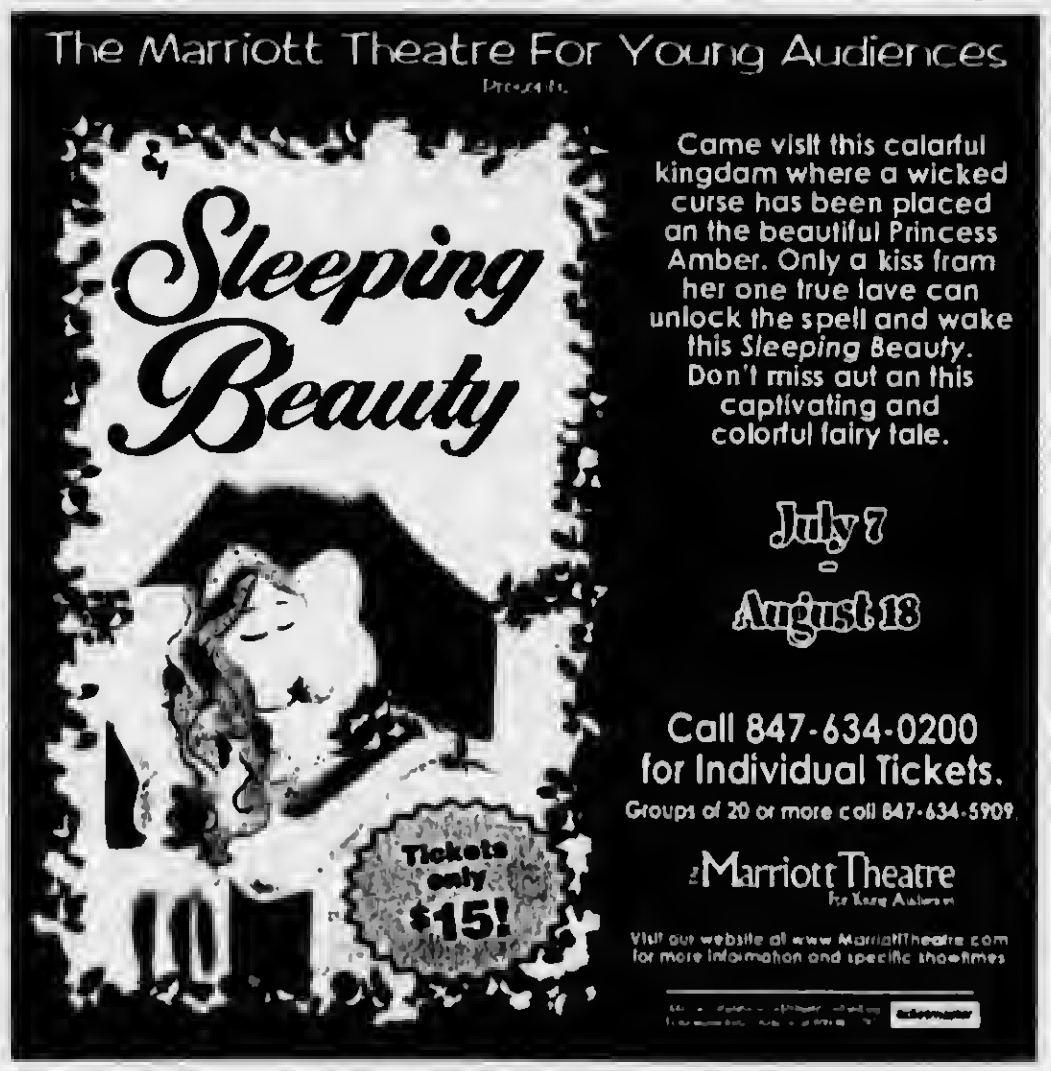
Exit Pursued By A Bear

The play, written by Lauren Gunderson, directed by Cassy Sanders is on stage until July 15, 2012 at the Greenhouse Theater Center Upstairs Studio, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave. in Chicago.

What happens when a wife just couldn't take her abusive husband anymore and dreams up a skit to scare him.

The play is not only funny but it's interesting as to how the writer defined a plot to tell the story.

Call 773-404-7336 or check out the website at www.theatreseven.org



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Sixty percent of respondents in a new survey said if one paycheck were late, they would have to cut back on at least one important household expense, such as groceries, rent or utilities. Find out more by visiting www.Primerica.com.

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Bringing your family together through technology this holiday may help you please just about everyone. As you create your holiday gift list, think about things the whole family can enjoy together. For more holiday gift ideas, visit Target.com/ Christmas.

Designed to appeal to all ages, Disney Universe is the first video game that brings together characters and worlds inspired by both animated and live-action films from Disney and Pixar. For more information, visit www.disneyuniverse.com.

Obituary

Marijo Doody - 9/14/1936 - 6/15/2012

Oak Lawn, Il - Marijo Doody, age 75, beloved daughter of the late James and Josephine Doody; loving sister of Betty (Ken) Duffy; fond aunt of Jennifer (Chip) Anderson, Ken Jr. (Kim) and Matthew (Mary) Duffy; and great aunt of Ryan Anderson and Carissa Duffy. Lying in State Monday, 9:30 a.m. until time of Mass, 10:30 a.m. at St. Bernadette Church, 93rd and Francisco, Evergreen Park, Il. Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Arrangements by Beverly Ridge Funeral Home, 773-779-4411.

Mass: Monday, June 18th 10:30 a.m. St. Bernadette Church

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ENTERTAINING IDEAS

Simple spreads can make outdoor entertaining as breezy as the season.

Five Tips For Tasty Entertaining

(NAPSA)-Sunny skies mean impromptu potlucks-and when your friends call, you don't want to be left scrambling. These five tips will keep you prepared when an invite comes your way:

1. Use what you have. Save time by keeping a few cupboard-friendly basics on hand: crackers, veggies or pita bread are great options that pair well with a cheese plate, dip or spread.

2. Try heatless recipes. Save yourself the sweat: Abandon the stove in favor of no-cook favorites like salads and crudités-they're not just faster, but often healthier, too.

3. Spice up store-bought. Basic French bread turns into a swoon-worthy side when you mix up a flavored spread, such as the recipes below for Cinnamon Sugar and Nutty Island spreads.

4. The fewer the ingredients, the better. Keep it simple; when paired thoughtfully, simple ingredients-such as lemon and olive oil or cinnamon and sugar-can truly shine.

5. Taste is key. Love using butter in your recipes? The spreads below use the new Smart Balance(r) spreadable butter, which tastes like regular butter but has 40 percent less saturated fat because it is blended with pure canola oil-a great option for those looking for a better butter.

Cinnamon Sugar Spread

Time: 5 min.

1/2 (7.5-oz.) container Smart Balance(r) Spreadable Butter & Canola Oil Blend

3 Tbsp. powdered sugar

1/2 tsp. cinnamon

Directions:

Combine all ingredients with an electric mixer until blended. Yield: 8 (1-Tbsp.) servings.

Per serving: 106 calories, 0g protein, 3g carbohydrates, 10g fat, 3.8g saturated fat, 4.3g monounsaturated fat, 1.4g polyunsaturated fat, 0g trans fat, 14mg cholesterol, 8mg sodium, 0g fiber.

Nutty Island Spread

Time: 5 min.

1/2 (7.5-oz.) container Smart Balance(r) Spreadable Butter & Canola Oil Blend

1 Tbsp. pineapple juice

2 Thsp. powdered sugar

2 Thsp. chopped walnuts

Directions:

Combine all ingredients with an electric mixer until blended. Yield: 10 (1-Tbsp.) servings.

Per serving: 92 calories, 0g protein, 2g carbohydrates, 9.3g fat, 3.1g saturated fat, 3.5g monounsaturated fat, 1.8g polyunsaturated fat, 0g trans fat, 1mg cholesterol, 65mg sodium, 0g fiber.

For more recipes, visit www.smartbalance.com.

Did You Know?

(NAPSA)—With Movies On Demand on cable, many of the latest releases are available the same day as the DVD—instantly, right at home. Learn more at www.rentmovieson demand.com.

Dr. Mary Hawkins, president of Bellevue University, says more than 2.5 million people over the age of 30 currently attend college in the U.S. Learn more at www.makeithappen now.org.

To help people recognize and prevent frauds and scams, The United States Postal Inspection Service set up a website, www.delivering trust.com, where you can educate yourself and report suspected fraud sent through the U.S. mail.

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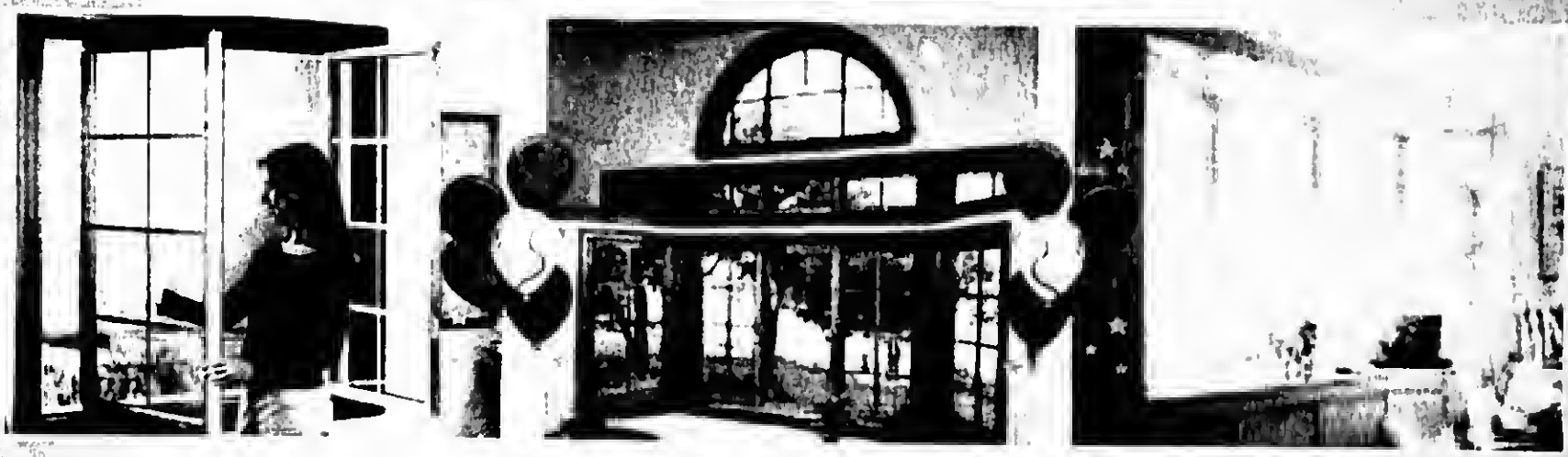

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SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 39 | Number 2 | July 17, 2012

Burbank, Evergreen Park, Hickory Hills, Justice, Oak Lawn

Evergreen Park approves video gaming

by Matt Mayer

Evergreen Park Officials approved an ordinance adding Section 3-5 Video Gaming to Chapter 3, Alcoholic Liquor, of the municipal code, which allows video gaming at the American Legion Post # 854 at 9701 S. Kedzie Avenue only.

In July 2009, Governor Pat Quinn signed a bill into law, which allows thousands of vidco gambling machines in restaurants and bars throughout the state. The law was passed in an effort to try and close a $31 billion budget gap. The bill leaves the authorization up to the discretion of local municipalities. As of the date of signing there were over 15,000 liquor licenses; the state could add a maximum of 77,000 new gambling machines according to the Illinois Casino Gaming Association website. After facing a legal challenge the Illinois Supreme Court upheld the legislation last July.

The Video Gaming Act HB 4239 was sponsored in the 97th General Assembly by Representatives Frank J. Mautino (D) 21st District, Summit, Jay C. Hoffman, (D) 112th District, Collinsville, Joseph M. Lyons (D) 19th District, Chicago, Michael J. Zalewski (D) 21st District, Summit and Lou Lang (D) 16th District, Skokie. The video gaming act allows licensed retail establishments, as well as licensed fraternal establishments, licensed veterans establishments and truck stops where alcoholic liquor is served to conduct video gaming. According to the Illinois General Assembly website, the Illinois Gaming Board is responsible for administration and enforcement of laws related to video gaming terminals.

Mayor Howley declares The main entrance to the city will be looking good

by Jan Glaz

On July 12th at the Hiekory Hills City Council Meeting Mayor Howley was pleased to announce that the main entrance to the eity located at 76th Avenue, W. 95th Street, adjacent to the I-294, is on the mend. The village has been working hard for many years to get development in that arca, not only for McDonald's but also Les Brothers restaurant, 7730 W. 95th Street and the restaurant Prime Time at 7750 W. 95th Street. "If you recall what we had there before was a used car shop and a big mess... It had looked in disrepair for so long we just beeame accustomed to it looking that way. It's very nice that in about 4 or 5 months we are going to see the whole main entrance to the city looking very, very, good," said the Mayor.

A four year union contract for police officers, the Police Colleetive Bargaining Agreement, met with approval by the city council, a copy will be available at the Clerk's Office. Mayor Howley read a letter of request from the Police Chief for consideration of policy covering the Police Supervisors and Civilian Employee Handbook regarding matters pertaining to eompensation. The request concerned the proposed economic issues described in the collective bargaining agreement for the patrol officers, also be extended to those employees covered by the supervisors policy, and civilians covered by the Employee Handbook. City Treasurer Schramm reported that only two items would affect the Supervisors Manual and that would be the uniform allowance increase and the degree of severance increase. "Wages are a completely separate issue," said Schramm.

End of Meeting Approvals: Public Works Director L. Boettcher reported public works proposes lining thousands of feet of pipe. Cement spray material to help sewer pipe from eollapsing was approved to be paid to Insituform, Inc. in the amount of $128.000.00. Boettcher announeed that their lining material has proved to have longevity and structural strength. The original budgeted appropriation from the Sewer Capital Fund was $110.000.00; the additional cost will be covered from the Utility Tax Fund. The 2012-2013 budget and appropriation received a unanimous vote

Plea for safer crossing at Southwest Highway and Cicero Avenue

by Matt Mayer

The council chambers at the July 10 Oak Lawn Board of Trustees meeting was overfilled with friends and family of Kaylan Lentine, a Hometown eighth grader who died after being struck by a pick up truck while trying to eross Southwest Highway and Cicero Avenue. Kaylan's mother, Krista Wilkinson, made an emotional plea to the board requesting that the intersection be made safer. "This is the only intersection along Cicero Avenue from 79th Street to 115th Street whieh doesn't have a pedestrian crossing light. Every other interseetion has a pedestrian crosswalk and some are far less busy," said Wilkinson.

Wilkinson said that while parents can educate their ehildren about erossing streets safely and until drivers obey the rules of the road and avoid distraction, more needs to be done. "Three weeks after her birthday, instead of planning her graduation party I was planning her wake and funeral, something one would of never expected to have to do." said Wilkinson.

Wilkinson pleaded with the board to not have here daughter's death be in vain. Trustee Alex Olejniczak (D-2) stated he had met with State Rep. Burke (D-36th District) and plans are underway to make the intersection safer. "We owe it to the family to take a eloser look at this and make this intersection safe", said Olejniczak. "The village needs to demonstrate that it supports these modifications. We need to bring this up in front of the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)", said Olejniczak.

Mayor Dave Heilmann said the village board had the power to hypass the village traffic review committee and go straight to IDOT requesting the installation of signals at the interseetion and perhaps having something in place prior to the time schools reopen.

Justice prepares to crack down on freeloaders

by Jan Glaz

The days are winding down for freeloaders who for years have been allowing others to pay their share of sewer costs. On Monday evening July 09th at the Village of Justice President and Board of Trustees Meeting Trustee Ed Rusch Jr. confirmed that the village is preparing to introduce aetion that will allow the city to separate the sewer portion of a resident's water bill and then to collect all unpaid money due the city for sewer services. Residents who do not comply will be sent a letter informing them that their water will be disconnected if they do not pay their past due bill by a certain date. Rusch interjected information about a $250,000.00 bill approaching the village within 3-5 years for replacement of two sanitary lift stations and by eollecting a large portion of unpaid sewer money the city can offset the dollar amount. At the next committee meeting Rusch will ask to direet the accounts reeeivable department to set aside anywhere from five to ten thousand dollars per billing of the sewer money into a fund set up for the expected bill of $250,000. "We're drawing a line in the sand, from this point forward, once we get the letter, onee we pass the agreement, we are aggressively, and I emphasize aggressively, going to negotiate with those people that have not paid their bills... and we will shut off their water," said Rusch.

Tax Bill Confusion: Village Clerk Kathy Svoboda reported that citizens have been complaining about their property tax bills. She explained that many homeowners will have an inerease of $1,000 on their 2011 real estate tax bill even though the property tax limitation was 1.5%. The vast majority of all increases on the residential tax bills is due to the elimination in 2011 of the 7% Expanded Homeowner Exemption. This exemption last appeared on the 2010 tax bill and will not be applicable in 2011 or future years.

Tax bills issued next year for 2012 should not increase more than 2 or 3% from the prior year as all of the 7% Expanded Homeowner Exemption has been phased out. Svoboda declared that this is not a result of any action by any local taxing body (village of Justice). If you compare your current tax bill with the second installment tax bill for last year, line by line, you will see the differences by individual taxing body to your bill.

Citizen Beware: Clerk Svoboda confirmed that the village of Justice does not cold call to solicit signing up residents for any electric supply contracts. The village urges citizens to report any Eleetric Supply Companies who elaim to be connected with the village of Justice, First Energy is the electric aggregation choice for Justice and they will not be ealling any residents.

Residents also need to beware of anyone coming to their door saying they represent the village; no one is out there soliciting for the village. Trustee Rusch made a motion to approve one lieense before the meeting adjourned: Easy Truck Sales, LLC doing business at 8750 W. 82nd Street, Justice, Illinois.

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FAR SOUTH EDITION

Volume 10 | Number 14 | July 17 , 2012

Oak Forest, Orland Park, Tinley Park

Orland Park zeros in on 2013 tax rebate

by Jan Glaz

Orland Park is prepared to offer tax rebates to property owners when the board fully agrees to a $2.5 million dollar rebate. The proposed amount is $2 million dollars less than the last tax rebate issued in March of 2009. During that period Orland Park declared a $3.4 million dollar gap in its operating budget for the 2010 fiscal year. By law the Village of Orland Park is required to balance the budget. In order to reduce the deficit the village implemented various budget cuts, including cutting the tax rebate program which had been in effect for 6 years. The village rebated $25.6 million during the time period between 2003 and 2009.

On the evening of July 2nd 2012 at the Village of Orland Park Committee Meeting it was disclosed that due to savings from various areas including selling of property, below budget construction projects, and income for other sources. Orland Park property holders may have the opportunity, if approved, to apply for a rebate in the fall of 2012. The rebate would then be paid out by March 2013. Trustee James Dodge mentioned that thus far this rebate only applies to the year 2013.

An ordinance for the tax rebate will be presented for vote by the Board of Trustees at the July 16th village board meeting. Once approved, applications will be sent to property owners. They will be required to submit various documents, including personal identification and copies of tax bills. The dollar amount of the rebate will vary, but based on receiving 19,000 applications an average of $137.00 would be paid to each household.

Supporting Businesses and Jobs: Before the meeting adjourned the city council approved a Business Retention & Expansion Consulting Services Contract (BRE) with the Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce in the amount not to exceed $12,100, a $110 fee per visit and a 10% administrative fee. It was previously cited that economic development statistics indicate that between 65%-80% of new jobs and investments come from the expansion of existing businesses in the community. In order to supplement and enhance the BRE program the village will partner with the Chamber of Commerce and under the (BRE) program contract the Chamber would conduct a survey/visitation with selected businesses and the information would be shared, analyzed and followed up by the village staff.

The Oak Forest Park District is presenting movie in the park

This is a FREE event on Friday, July 20th at El Morro Park (155th @ Arroyo and Victoria Drives) to see the critically acclaimed movie "Cloudy with a chance of Meat Balls". Concessions will be available for purchase, and we will have a free raffle! Remember to bring a blanket or chair to sit on. We look forward to seeing you and your family there!

Orland Park School District has a new Principal and Assistant Principal

New Principal David Kennedy and Assistant Principal Jennifer Nichols will lead Jerling Jr. High this coming school year. Nichols most recently was the Dean of Students at Conrady Jr. High in North Palos District 117, with prior experience as a Reading Specialist at Conrady and the District Reading Specialist in North Palos School

Tinley Park announces special program

EREADER CLASSES

The Tinley Park Public Library will hold free ereader classes in August for the Kindle, Nook, Sony and Kobo. These classes are designed to show you how to borrow books from Media on Demand, our ebook lending service. Registration for ereader classes begins on Saturday, August 4, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. and must be done in person at the Checkout Desk. Class size is limited to eight participants. Check with the library for dates and times of classes. Phone 708.532.0160, ext. 3. The library is located at 7851 Timber Drive. Our website is www.tplibrary.org.

FRESH FARMER'S MARKET AND TANGLEWEED CONCERT

The Tinley Park Public Library will host Fresh Farmer's Market and Tangleweed Concert on Sunday, August 5, 2012 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. for all ages. Shop locally-grown fresh vegetables, fruits, eggs, baked goods, and honey while you listen to live bluegrass fusion music (1:00-3:00 p.m.) by Tangleweed. Many of the booths will feature educational and tasting opportunities, as well as an old-fashioned tractor on display. Event will be moved indoors in case of bad weather. The concert is sponsored in part by the Friends of the TPPLibrary. Phone 708.532.0160, ext. 3.

WALK THIS WAY

The Tinley Park Public Library will host Walk This Way on Tuesday, August 14, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. Personal wellness coach Ton Kens will return with an energetic program on how to get and keep fit by walking. Learn how almost anyone can work walking into a regular fitness routine. Registration begins July 17. Phone 708.532.0160, ext. 3.

PARTNERS IN CRIME – EXPOSED

The Tinley Park Public Library will host Partners in Crime on Tuesday, August 7, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. The book of discussion will be Exposed by Alex Kava and will be available for check out one month in advance of the program. No registration required. Phone 708.532.0160, ext. 3.

CREATING YOUR BRAND

The Tinley Park Public Library will host Creating Your Brand on Wednesday, August 15, 2012 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. Our Job Search series continues with the expertise of professional recruiter Greg David. Increase your ability to reinvent yourself in a job search, as well as create a personal brand that firms and others will recognize and value. There will be time after the program for personal assistance. Registration begins July 18. Phone 708.532.0160, ext. 3. The library is located at 7851 Timber Drive. Our website is www.tplibrary.org.

Fire alert at Oak Forest Meeting

by Jan Glaz

At the Oak Forest City Council Meeting held on July 10th City Administrator Troy Ishler warned residents to be careful as fires tend to start up quickly in extremely dry weather. Ishler related that the Oak Forest Fire Chief expects to see a rise in small fires from outdoor barbecuing and other fire related uses. "Anything we can do to avoid that situation would be very helpful," Troy said.

Another weather issue mentioned by Ishler concerned water restriction. Oak Forest is still at tier one water restriction, limiting outdoor water use from 7 pm – 11 pm, and on odd even days according to a residents address. If weather permits, the city may revert back to the original water restriction. Troy disclosed that Oak Forest is in daily communication with Oak Lawn and other townships linked to the water supply. All are trying to avert a water emergency. Oak Lawn installed a backup generator at their main pumping house. The installation took 9 hours instead of the estimated 3-4 hours and caused a noticeable drop in Oak Forest's water reserves. Maintaining water capacity is necessary in case of a major fire or a rash of fires. It is known that during drought-times some communities are forced to ban all use of outdoor water. Ishler pointed to the fact that Oak Forest currently depends on one water line and with the system operating right now above capacity a water break could shut them down for a 24 hour period. Ishler stressed, "This is one of the major reasons why we are investing in another water line, to make it redundant where if one thing goes down we have an alternate supply."

Final Approvals: Under the agenda heading of Administration the board agreed to establish a policy for the display of memorial bunting by the City of Oak Forest and under the heading of Community Development the city council voted to authorize vacation of public utility easement for a re-subdivision at 5340 West 159th Street.

Village View

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SOUTH SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 13 | Number 14 | July 17, 2012

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

Smith Village Life Services Network honor Rep. Cunningham

Quality in aging services requires commitment, responsibility and a belief that aging has a fulfilling purpose in life, and that our society's elders have an enduring value to family and community. To promote the importance of its commitment to quality, Smith Village at 2320 W. 113th Place in Beverly, is a member of Life Services Network (LSN) and participates in "Partners in Quality," a grassroots advocacy program. Through this program, Smith Village recently held a visit and tour for (from left) State Rep. Bill Cunningham (D-35th), during which Smith's executive director Kevin McGee presented him with the LSN's "Partners in Quality" Award, which recognizes Cunningham's personal commitment to the advancement of quality in older adult services in Illinois. Looking on are

Kirk Riva, vice president of public policy for LSN, and Mike Flynn, CEO of Smith Senior Living and chairman-elect of LSN. For information about Smith Village, call 773-474-7300 or visit SmithVillage.org.

Worth Museum announces summer programs

Daughters of the American Revolution: A History and Legacy in Palos Township

Swallow Cliff chapter president Susan Snow will lead a discussion on the history of the DAR chapter in the region. Learn this interesting history and tips on how you can research your past to see if you qualify to become a part of this organization. The museum is featuring a display on the DAR through August.

Wednesday, July 18th 11am.

This is a free program.

Worth History Round Table with the Worth Museum

Join us on Wednesday, July 25th at 7pm at the Worth Restaurant for an open, round table discussion on the history of Worth. Bring your ideas, memories and any photos that you wish to share. This is open to all ages.

The Worth Restaurant will offer small snack and food items for a small fee. The restaurant is located at 6948 West 111th Street in Worth.

Building the Canal to Save Chicago Wednesday Sept 26, 7pm

Chicago was the fastest growing city in the late 1800s, but its location had one big disadvantage, poor drainage.

Cholera and typhoid were rampant and Chicago had one of the highest mortality rates. The Chicago River was a public nuisance, polluted and smelly. The building of a canal solved these problems and allowed the city to continue to grow, the mortality rate plummeted and the river became enjoyable. The building of the canal required the creation of a new government and the development of pioneering construction technology that helped in the building of the Panama Canal.

The reversal of the flow in the Chicago River remains a wonder of the world and it remains critical to a sustainable future for the Chicago metropolis.

Come and hear Author and former Director of the MWRD, Richard Lanyon, discuss his latest publication "Building the Canal to Save Chicago". This is a free program sponsored by the Worth Park District Historical Museum. For more information please visit www.worthparkdistrict.org or call 708 448 7080 x 107.

Free program. All events take place at The museum located at 11500 S Beloit, 3 blocks West of Harlem Ave. www.worthparkdistrict.org

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Palos Hills approves special use for day care facility

by Matt Mayer

The Palos Hills City Council at a recent meeting concurred with the Planning Commission and approved an ordinance petitioned by Katarzyna Lapsa to grant a special use permit for a child daycare facility at 8813 W. 95th Street.

The recommendation followed a public hearing on May 7. The special use allows the day care facility to operate in a B-1 District.

In accordance with the ordinance, the special use is contingent upon the petitioner complying with the following conditions. All city building and zoning regulations must be satisfied; all rules and regulations of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services which pertains to the operation of a daycare facility; the requirements of the North Palos Fire Protection District must be adhered to and followed: the business will only operate Monday through Friday between 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.; the special use granted will automatically terminate if the petitioner transfers more than 50 percent ownership interest in the business or if the business ceases operating as a child day care facility for more than 90 consecutive days.

Also all legal fees and other costs incurred by the City in drafting and enforcing the ordinance shall be paid by the petitioner, according to the ordinance.

The special use was approved after careful consideration of the petitioner's proposal and the interests of the citizens of the city. Also the city, by ordinance, does not make a commitment to issue any occupancy or building permits. The decision shall be reserved until the time of the actual applications, according to the ordinance.

Palos Heights approves Town Square

by Matt Mayer

The Palos Heights City Council at a recent meeting approved a motion to authorize the city attorney to draft an ordinance approving the preliminary Plan Unit Development (PUD) for Palos Town Square. The ordinance was amended to include the addition of a 6,000 sq ft lot located on the east end and an additional 31 parking spaces on the razed property located on the northeast corner of Rt. 83 and Harlem Avenue. The original home of Crown Buick and then Rizza Buick, the razed dealership property has been vacant for some 14 years. The preliminary PUD plat rendering shows Lot 1-a Bank; Lot 2 a 8,250 sq ft retail building; Lot 3 a 18,000 sq ft retail building; Lot 4 a 8,365 sq ft automotive service center; Lot 5 a 6,850 sq ft retail building; Lot 6 a 6,000 sq ft retail building. The site will also include 261 parking spaces and a naturalized detention pond.

Another PUD for this property "NorthPointe" which would have been a mix used development consisting of retail, restaurant and a senior housing center was voted down in 2008. Following shouts from the crowd of opponents "We have spoken" and "We can do better", the PUD Commission voted 7-3 against rezoning the 8.1-acre parcel from business use to a planned unit development.

Developer Lagesteee - Mulder President Tad Lagestee said that he plans to sign on different tenants as the buildings become available for occupancy. This has worked well with the development of the Mokena Town Square, said Lagestee. That development began with a bank as the sole tenant prior to the addition of retailers and restaurants over the course of several years. A Bank will most likely be the first business to open on this site, said Lagestee.

Chicago Glessner House Museum completed in 1887, tours $15 per person. Call for reservations, 312-326-1480.

Village View

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B-MAC EDITION

Volume 6 | Number 14 | July 17, 2012

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Disorder prevails at Alsip Village Meeting

by Jan Glaz

An orderly meeting of the Village of Alsip's regularly scheduled Board Meeting, July 2nd, began with a presentation ceremony: swearing in Fire Chief Tom Styczynski and Deputy Fire Chief – Training & Safety Division, Robert Ricker. Congratulations and official photos followed. After a short break the meeting resumed and Mayor Kitching attempted to receive motions to approve two ordinances regarding entering into a membership with other municipalities for the construction of a water pipe and filtration plant for use of Lake Michigan water. The First Amended Intergovernmental Agreement for the Establishment of the South Suburban Joint Action Water Agency (JAWA) and an ordinance providing for the execution and delivery of a Member Guaranty Agreement and for the issuance of not to exceed $1,650,000 General Obligation Bonds, Series 2012, and, for the levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay the principal and interest on said Bonds sparked a clash between the Mayor and the Trustees, who refused to support the ordinances.

The trustees voiced concern that they did not have sufficient time to review and discuss all the implications of spending $1,650,000 and approving a tax levy. Mayor Kitching reminded the trustees that each had been invited, numerous times, to meetings regarding the issue and not one made an appearance, even when the meetings were rescheduled to accommodate a trustee's time frame. The Mayor then introduced various representatives of JAWA who were present to answer questions and to alleviate any fears, especially concern over an increase in property taxes. They explained JAWA's intent. Although passing a tax levy is required, as the project moves forward future funding will be secured by water contracts and not by property taxes, but the trustees held their ground.

Kitching singled out Trustee Ryan, Chairman of the Water Committee. He questioned Ryan's lack of interest in freeing Alsip from the skyrocketing water rates implemented hy the City of Chicago. Ryan denied not being interested. The Mayor retaliated by citing Ryan's neglect to set up committee meetings with other members of the board to discuss the JAWA proposal. An ongoing clash between Ryan, the Mayor, and other trustee's ignited an audience response and residents began to shout out their opinions, siding with Mayor Kitching. The final voice heard over the brawl was that of the Police Chief pleading over and over again, for order.

Kevin Michaels, a former trustee, took the floor at the puhlic participation portion of the meeting. He voiced his disappointment with the trustees and more so with Trustee Ryan, implicating irresponsible actions towards the Village of Alsip in respect to his knowledge of water. One resident, Lynn Dwyer, questioned Trustee Ryan as to why he did not do the job he is paid to do. Moving away from water, she suggested other motives, her exact words: "Its politics, anything the Mayor wants to pass you guys work against it; pretty much everything."

Noteworthy approvals: Before adjourning the city council agreed to approve a request from Tuthill Pump to hold a car wash on the property located at 12500 S. Pulaski, on July 21st from 10am to 2pm. All proceeds will be donated to a local charity called Operation Blessing; Four Seasons of Fun, Inc. will hold a tent sale on the property located at 4845 W. 111th Street, from August 10, to September 11, 2012.

Opening Day at Ultra Food sets the record

by Jan Glaz

Crestwood Mayor Robert Stranczek smiled as he announced that the opening of Ultra Foods, located in the River Crest Shopping Center, set two records in a row. On July 5th, at the Village of Crestwood Board Meeting, Ultra Foods opening day sales reported in at $1.2 million, the second day; $1.3 million. Hard work by the village, including Village Director Bill Graffeo, made locating the supermarket in Crestwood possible. "We're very, very happy, everybody felt it's a great place, a good addition to the village." said the Mayor.

The Village attorney received approval from the board of trustees to prepare a Special Use Ordinance for 5011 Cal Sag Road, for Lavida Massage. The city council then approved a Special Use Ordinance for ADH Auto Repair and Sales, located at 13509 S. Pulaski Road, Crestwood, Illinois.

Appointments for the fire and police department on consideration of bonds and oaths were announced. (FD) Michael Dizonno; Robert Kupsik; John Paliga; Rick Sorley; (PD)Christopher Soderlund: Emergency Medical Assistant (EMA) Gloria R. Maslanka.

Last order of business: Trustee Hirsch reported for the month of June that 49 building permits were issued; total permits totaled $5,453.63; total evaluation of permits, $1,342,382.00. The Fire Department responded to 256 incidents. The total fire loss summary was valued at $448,400.00 and there were no injuries to fire fighters or civilians. Trustee Fowler reported police activity. Total arrests 55, crimes against persons 17, crimes against property 16, motor vehicle accidents 53, service calls 1125, and total miles driven by squads and jeeps came in at 24,692.5 miles.

Midlothian to finance a major purchase

by Jan Glaz

An important decision to pay outright or finance Air Packs for the Fire Department came under discussion at the Village of Midlothian Board of Trustees Meeting held on July 11th. The city had no choice; they needed to purchase the Packs, priced at $208,003.40. If financed the down payment at 10% down would be $20,800.00 and the amount of the finance $187,203.40. The Village Treasurer Denise J. Borne recommended going for the shortest term listed which is 3 years; a payment of $66,373.04 each year with a financing rate of 3.15%, however the council favored 5 years, the maximum term available, with a rate of 3.25% and a payment of $41,168.95.

Mayor Stephans shared information relating to a meeting for elected officials that he attended on the morning of July 11th at Markham City Hall relative to the I-294 and the I-57 interchange improvement project. By the end of 2014 seventy-five per cent of the benefit of the interchange will be in place: the south bound exit from I-294 and 147th Street and the northbound entrance southbound to I-294 to I-57 and the reverse. Stephens said, "What we will see is enhanced movement of truck traffic and fewer trucks on Pulaski that is the biggest part of the benefit. The other 25% is going to include the ramps taking traffic from southbound I-57 to northbound I-294 and reverse."

Crime Prevention: The Mayor proclaimed Tuesday August 7th as National Night Out for the year 2012. The Night Out provides opportunity for the Village of Midlothian to join forces with thousands of other communities across the country in promoting cooperative police community crime prevention efforts. The Mayor said, "It is essential that all citizens of Midlothian be aware of the importance of crime prevention programs and the impact that their participation can have in reducing crime, drugs, and violence in Midlothian. Police community partnerships, neighborhood safety awareness, and cooperation are important things of the National Night out Program."

Fun in the City: The Village of Midlothian and the Midlothian Chamber of Commerce invited all to join in a fun-filled evening with neighbors and friends on Tuesday July 17th, from 6PM to 10PM. There will be good food and great entertainment featuring the Chicago Dueling Pianos. The location is St. Christopher Fiesta Grounds under the Main Tent. Admission is free. Various food venders will be available and the St. Christopher Beer Garden will be open.

Key spending approvals before the meeting adjourned: Approval of Klein, Thorpe and Jenkins, Ltd. Invoice in the amount of $2,999.85 for legal services rendered and expenses advanced for redevelopment on 147th and Cicero; J. Congdon Sewer Service Inc. invoice in the amount of $269,297.78 for the Water Main Replacement and Swallow Construction Corporation invoice $210,448.44 for the Water Main Replacement.

Village View Newspaper staff extends our condolences to the family of Thomas "Bud" Gavin Jr. See pages 10 or 11 for the Obituary!

Abrogating the Social Contract

by Paul B Downing, PhD

I went to public schools, graduating in 1957 from Riverside High School in Milwaukee. I then attended the University of Wisconsin where I was awarded several degrees including a PhD in economics in 1967. All of my education was paid for by tax payers with a very modest tuition contribution from me in collage. That was the way things were done back then. It is not the way things are done now.

Back then there was an implicit social contract, seemingly understood by all and agreed to by most. Taxes were paid by productive adults to educate the next generation. Through education, the next generation would become more productive members of our society. The economy would grow. People would make informed decisions. Others would invent new things. This would make all people better off. Those publicly educated young adults would then assume some of the responsibility of educating the next generation. The cycle would continue.

That is not the way things are now. My granddaughter graduated at the top of her class from a public grade school where she was often afraid to attend class because of the crime in the halls. She was assigned to attend a high school that was known for its crime and which had not passed the state's minimum

Wanting the best for her, her parents had three choices: send her to this public school and hope for the best, home school her even though they both worked to keep the household together, or find a private school alternative, an option they could not afford. Heart wrenched, they called her grandparents (my wife and I) to discuss their options. We worked it out so that our granddaughter could attend a small private high school. She recently graduated from high school but it was all her parents could do to pay for it.

You might think that this is a story of some family living in the poorest part of a big city. It is not. My son and daughter in law work hard, eam a reasonable income and live in a middle class suburb of a large city.

How did this happen? How did a productive family living in a nice older suburb find themselves being served by crumbling failed public schools? The citizens of that suburb and the state have abrogated their social contract. They are no longer willing to pay taxes to support the education of the next generation.

There are three different types of adults, those with children of school age in public schools, those with children in private schools and those without children or with grown children. Portions, not all, of those who do not have children in public schools say to themselves: "Why should I pay for someone else's children to be educated. It should be their job". They resist paying taxes to fund public education even though the income they eam is often the result of having obtained a public education paid for by others. This is one reason why schools are underfunded and drop in quality. These citizens have abrogated their social contract.

The effect snowballs as people with children in public schools find these schools increasingly unsatisfactory. Those who can afford to, send their children to private schools to avoid the problems. The result is that they pay for schooling twice; through private tuition and property taxes that fund the public schools. They resist paying those taxes. The underfunding is compounded and the public schools sink further into failure. The cycle of underfunding deepens as more and more families abandon the public schools.

The two generation's long movement from cities to their suburbs, partially an attempt to escape the city's poor public schools, has also contributed to this underfunding. The relatively rich suburban communities do not contribute to the education of those left in the city, generally less affluent and more often poor people. The movement to the suburbs allows people to escape city education taxes. They may pay more in taxes in the suburb but they are also getting better education for their children. The result is even less funding for the city's public schools. Poor schools stimulate even more people to move to the suburbs. Failure breeds more failure.

We now have two generations of inner city kids, those whose parents cannot afford to move to the suburbs, who are seriously undereducated. We are developing a generation of suburban kids who are also undereducated, at least those who go to public schools. No wonder the productivity of American workers has declined relative to other developed nations. And again failure breeds failure. These undereducated kids see little hope for a bright productive future so they lose interest in school. They think: "Why should I study when it will do me no good". They skip school or drop out. In some school districts the dropout rate is over 25 percent! Those undereducated younger adults eam less or depend on government poverty programs. They are less able to help pay for the education of the next generation. The downward spiral continues.

America is in a sad position. Our public schools do not keep up with those of other countries. We now rank 14th in the world in education; worse in math. We used to be first. A large portion of our population is undereducated. Our economy is weakening due to this lack of education just as other countries grow strong based on their well educated young adults. There is a reason why your computer help line is answered by someone from India. It is not just because they work cheaper. It is also because they are educated in these technical skills where fewer and fewer Americans are capable of doing this job. There are thousands of technical jobs open now in the US but employers cannot find qualified workers to fill them. One employer recently commented that he thanked God that most of the foreign students who come to US colleges stay here so he can hire them. We must reverse this situation or see America decline into a second rate nation.

What will it take? Clearly, we need a massive rededication to public education, not just in public schools but in the undereducated adult population as well. How should this effort be financed? Let's look at some ideas. **PAYING FOR EDUCATION**

We can do away with one alternative quickly. Leaving individuals and their parents to pay for education is what got us into this mess to begin with. Poorer people will not be able to afford the education. They and their children will remain undereducated. Not all will fail. Some youngsters are amazingly ambitious. They succeed in spite of the system. But all too many who would succeed if given a decent chance now fail and become a burden on the community. But poor underfunded schools do not give them the chance they deserve. It seems clear to me that we need more public involvement and public funds in education. But I am not advocating more of the same system that got us into this mess. Let's explore some alternatives.

What level, or levels, of government should collect taxes to fund education? The people in the local community do not get the benefit from most of the children educated in their public schools. Those educated youngsters move elsewhere after graduation. The state is in an equally bad position. Wisconsin taxpayers paid for my education but I have never worked in Wisconsin since graduation and have not paid a dime into the education of the next generation of Wisconsinites. This is not true of all people. My high school friends all stayed in Milwaukee, thus contributing to the education of the next generation. The leak from the state is not 100% and others move into Wisconsin from other states but on net Wisconsin is a looser. A few states are winners in the sense that more people who are educated in other states move into them than they lose to other states. But they are in the minority.

With the vast mobile population we have in this country, it seems obvious to me that the appropriate level of government to fund all, or at least a major portion, of public education is the federal government. In this way all those who benefit from educating the next generation will be paying. There would be no way to avoid paying for the better education of all short of leaving the country. But this is how it should be. If you leave the country, you avoid the school tax but you also do not get the benefit of the education it pays for.

I believe that taxes should reflect the benefit received from the government service being funded, at least as far as is practical. General education increases the productivity of the educated and all others working in the country. Thus, those working are more productive and earn more income. The benefit of better education accrues to all citizens.

Income is a good indicator of who benefits from public education. Since an educated population increases the country's productivity, it increases all incomes. But those with higher income have demonstrated with that earning that they benefit more. This implies that the federal income tax would be a good source of funds for public education. Many states fund public education in part from a state income tax and/or sales tax.

The Federal Government would become the major source of funds for all local public schools. It could also be the major source of funds to private schools.

Before I discuss how I would organize this funding, I know that there are two other issues in the forefront of your mind. Who should control the schools educating our youth? Shouldn't the parents pay at least some of the cost of educating their children? Both interesting questions and my answer ties them together. Parents have the greatest interest in the quality of education for their children. It follows that they should have a major say in how their children are educated. However, society has an interest as well. Primarily they wish to make sure the children have obtained a set of skills that allow them to function well in our society.

My solution is commonly known as a voucher system. Give each parent a voucher to be used to pay tuition at the school of their choice. This would give the parents a choice as to which school their child attends. Under this system, my granddaughter could have attend any high school she and her parents choose, not the failing public school she was assigned to. Failing schools would lose students and would either fix their problems or close down. Good schools would have more students so they would be rewarded for their excellence. The parents could supplement the voucher to pay for a more expensive school, but it would be their choice, not one forced on them by government.

The voucher could be structured so that the parent would have to pay a portion of the tuition to the school of their choice. In this way parents would share in the cost of financing their child's education. If they chose to send their child to a private school, they would not also have to pay for the failed school they bailed out of. Lower income

Continued from page 2

families could be given a larger voucher to compensate for their lack of ability to pay for their children's education.

Existing public schools would have to compete with private schools for students. This would force them to be better educators. Likewise private schools could not slack off in quality or they would lose students and funding. The whole school system would be much improved.

There would still be a role for government. The government could review the school curriculum to determine whether it met this basic level of education. It could also conduct, or require the school to conduct and publish, standard competence tests to insure that the students are making the required progress. In this way, the tax payer would be assured that the students are learning the skills the tax payers want them to have; the standard reading, writing and arithmetic, the latter to include extensive computer training. Better schools financed with a more equitable system of taxes would be the result of such a reform.

This brings us to the last group to be educated. No, it is not politicians, although that is not a bad idea. It is college students. I am a strong proponent of higher education but I also acknowledge that much of what students learn does not prepare them for a specific job. However, over my years of teaching college, I have observed one important fact about education. Often it is not specific knowledge that is important. Rather it is the ability to think critically and to learn. For example, when I graduated from college, I had only a very rudimentary knowledge of computers. The computer revolution was in its infancy. Now I work with a portable computer that is more powerful and convenient than the state of the art computer I worked with at the Pentagon in 1967. I can do this because I learned how to learn.

I think we could do better in teaching students how to learn in today's colleges but the basics of a good education are already in place. All that is needed is a reorientation of course emphasis. College offers another advantage that our society desperately needs more of. Students are exposed to a far broader cross-section of the world than they are likely to get in high school. At Wisconsin, I sat next to and discussed the issues of the day with, students from several states and a number of foreign countries. Learning their differing perspectives broadened my understanding of the world and made me more tolerant.

Reduced tuition for college or other post-secondary education would make it more affordable. Greater skill specific training in junior colleges or other institutions would attract students who might otherwise go to college, thus reducing the current high demand for a college education. Young people are getting the message that college is not for everyone any more so a restructuring of higher education is already underway. There will be more junior colleges and more trade schools in the future to respond to this changing trend in demand. With the financing alternatives I suggest, students can make better choices.

As with K-12 education, higher education should be paid for with a substantial infusion of federal funds. Students of higher education are even more mobile that high school graduates so any state has a reduced incentive to pay for their education. I do feel that college students should pay some proportion of the cost of their education through tuition and living expenses. This out of pocket cost helps insure that the student is serious about the education they are getting.

Sources of Funds for Education

Higher federal taxes, I have to be kidding, right? No, those taxes are an investment in the future and will start paying dividends shortly. In a few years increased productivity will increase the nation's income and those newly educated people will pay more taxes. We can then reduce the tax rates on all people. In the longer run a citizen's tax burden will go down.

Fortunately, there is an offset to the rise in federal taxes. Local property taxes are currently the main source of funding for public K-12 schools. That tax would no longer be needed. Eliminating this local property tax would substantially reduce the burden on residents and small business in the community. If, as I expect, schools become more efficient because of the competition, the overall tax burden would go down.

Financing of colleges would also shift from the state to the federal government. This would mean a reduction in state sales and income taxes.

There will be a period of transition where federal taxes will be somewhat higher than the reduction in local and state taxes as we catch up on our past underfunding of education. However, we will quickly overcome our past abrogation of the social contract. Then, as the more educated citizenry enter the work force, I expect that taxes will decline. Productivity increases combined with more efficient schools will reduce the public burden of education. The country will be far better off financially and, perhaps more important, society will function better.

What will happen if we do not solve this education problem (dare I say crises)? The country's productivity will continue to decline and the tax burden on those still making a living will go up. That's the choice. Fix the problem now or pay much more later.

Richard Oberbruner, an inspirational speaker who studied at The Second City Theater, will be presenting to job seekers at Moraine Valley's Career Paths and Coffee speaker series on Aug. 4.

Job seekers learn tips to secure a job

Mature job seekers can learn tips at Moraine Valley's speaker event. As part of Moraine Valley Community College's Career Paths and Coffee adult information sessions.

The speakers series will continue with its second presentation, "It's Not How Long You've Done Something. It's How Good You Are At It Right Now. "This free event is Saturday, August 4, 8:30-11 a.m., in Building M on campus, 9000 W. College Pkwy in Palos Hills.

Richard Oberbruner, an inspirational speaker who empowers a diverse audience, especially job seekers, is the presenter. Oberbruner studied improv at The Second City Theater and Chicago Improv Fest and uses improv as his presentational tool.

He will discuss building persuasive moments, how job seekers can compress their background into something more immediate and give participants the opportunity to describe themselves in new ways.

Sign-in begins at 8:30 a.m. with light refreshments before the presentation begins at 9 a.m. There also will be time for questions.

Career Paths and Coffee sessions are hour-long gatherings each month on all three of Moraine Valley's campuses and at district libraries that provide information for adults interested in learning about programs and resources at Moraine Valley in a relaxed setting.

To RSVP or for more information, contact Deb Wills at (708) 974-5759, Willsd6@morainevalley.edu or visit morainevalley.edu/adultsuccess.

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Chicago Portage National Historic Site Tour is free

Date: Saturday August 4th, 2012.Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. Event: Chicago Portage National Historic Site Tour. Friends of the Chicago Portage would like to announce a free public tour of the Chicago Portage National Historic Site on Saturday August 4th at 10:00 A.M.

This tour will be lead by veteran tour guide Jeff Carter who will explore the "Birth Story of Chicago" from the geological beginnings of the Portage to how it is still functioning in Chicago today. One of only two national historic sites in Illinois, the Chicago Portage National Historic site is the only place where you can stand on the same ground walked by all the early explorers, early settlers, and creators of Chicago.

The Tour is approximately ½ mile in length on a gravel path through the woods and will take about 2 hours. Wear long pants and walking shoes or boots. The Tour will run rain or shine. The late Tribune columnist John Husar, after touring the site called it "Our sacred ground". It is certainly Chicago's "Plymouth Rock". All tours are free and open to the public. Location:

The Chicago Portage National Historic site is at 4800 S. Harlem which is on the west side of Harlem Avenue (7200 W) just 2 blocks north of the Stevenson Expressway (I-55).Meet at the monumental statue of Marquette and Joliet and their Native American guide at 10:00 am. .Sponsor:

Friends of the Chicago Portage.Contact: Gary Mechanic at 773-590-0710 www.chicagoportage.org. (Friends of the Chicago Portage promotes the historic interpretation, ecological restoration and appropriate development of the Chicago Portage National Historic Site through volunteer advocacy, public events and other projects that raise public awareness of the site's history and significance.)

2012 Art Fair at Orland Park Crossings

Great Addition to Orland Chamber Events Schedule

A day of family fun that will appeal to the artist in you is the plan for the 2012 Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce Art Fair. The Fair is being organized by the Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the Village of Orland Park and Orland Park Crossings. The non-juried art fair is scheduled to be held from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, July 21, and Sunday, July 22, outdoors at the Orland Park Crossing shopping center, located at 142nd Street and LaGrange Road.

This event is the first of its kind for the chamber.

"We're all really looking forward to this art-filled weekend," Keloryn Putnam, Executive Director of the Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce, said. "It should be a lot of fun and we're thrilled to promote local artistic talent."

"Our committee was very excited to work with the Village on this event," shared Art Fair Committee Chairman, Heather Warthen. "The artist response was the biggest thrill. We have 22 artists committed to showcase and sell their works of art. There will be food available for purchase from some of our local restaurants, entertainment and even a chance to be a part of our community art project. I encourage everyone to come on out, bring your family and friends and help us support the Arts."

T-shirts were created from the artistic designs submitted by local artists.

"These artists met our challenge to create a 12-by-12-inch design that represents their vision of Orland Park," Warthen says. "I think they all did a fantastic job and they are very unique." The three selected designs will be available for sale at the Chamber booth during the Fair. The price of the T-shirts is $8 or 3 for $20.

In addition to the artists, free entertainment will be provided by local musicians, dancers and performing arts groups. Children attending the fair will have the opportunity to participate in a unique community art project that will be seen throughout Orland Park once it is completed.

There is no admission fee for this event.

For more information on the 2012 Art Fair, please call (708) 349-2972 or visit www.orlandparkchamber.org.

OL Childrens Museum

Music and Story Time: Have some fun singing with your child during Music & Story Time every Tuesday and Wednesday at 11am. Karen will be teaching some songs, reading stories and having some fun. This program is for all museum members and visitors. There is no additional fee and no need to register. Meet in the multipurpose room unless it is reserved.

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Stachon takes Command of the Illinois Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Joseph J. Stachon elected Commander of the Illinois VFW at the State Convention

During the 2012 State Veterans of Foreign Wars Convention the assembled delegates unanimously elected Joe Stachon as their Commander for the 2012-2013 year.

Stachon served honorably in the United States Army from January 1968 to October 1969, earning his eligibility to the Veterans of Foreign Wars while serving with Company "B", 4th Battalion, 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade as a combat rifleman, earning a National Defense Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge and Parachute Badge. Wounds received in action resulted in a medical retirement from the United States Army.

Joseph is a Gold Legacy Life member of Johnson-Phelps Post 5220 in Oak Lawn, Illinois, where he served in all chairs including Post Commander ten times (All-State Commander four times), he also holds offices in the Military Order of the Cooties Pup Tent #42. He served the 3rd district in a number of offices including Commander in 2002 and currently serves as District Quartermaster.

Joseph served the Department of Illinois in many offices including National Aide-de-camp, National By-laws Committee, Department Ways and Means Committee, Deputy Chief of Staff, National Chief of Staff, Regional Membership Director, and the Department Newspaper Committee.

Commander Stachon, retired from the Chicago Police Department after 30 years of service, and is an active member of FOP Lodge #7 and the Retired Chicago Police Association.

Joseph is involved in various veteran and civic organizations as a life member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter #575, life member of Disabled American Veterans Chapter #84, treasurer of American Legion Post #757, member of the 173rd Airborne Association, member of Chapter #242 of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Vice-President of the Oak Lawn Athletic Club, member of the Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce, a member of Oak Lawn Elks Lodge #2254 and Commissioner on the Palos Heights Veteran's Commission.

Joseph and his wife Barbara have been married for 42 years and have three grown children and four grandchildren. They reside in Palos Heights, Illinois.

Oak Lawn Village Clerk elected Vice President of South and West Municipal Clerks Association

Oak Lawn Village Clerk Jane M. Quinlan, CMC was elected to a one year term as Vice President of the South and West Municipal Clerks Association. The organization represents over 75 municipalities in south and west Cook County.

The municipal clerks meet monthly to conduct business pertaining to the needs of municipalities and their residents.

The South and West Municipal Clerks Association also promotes continuing education for clerks and the betterment of the profession of municipal clerks

Cooling Centers in and near Oak Lawn

OAK LAWN SENIOR CENTER
5330 West 95th Street
Oak Lawn, IL 60453
708-499-0240
Monday – Friday
8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

OAK LAWN LIBRARY
9727 South Raymond Avenue Oak Lawn, IL 60453
708-422-4990
708-857-2420
Monday, Wednesday and Friday 6:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday 6:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. Saturday 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Sunday 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

OAK LAWN RACQUET CLUB
10444 South Central Avenue Oak Lawn, IL 60453
708-857-2215
Monday – Friday 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Saturday 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Sunday 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

OAK LAWN COMMUNITY PAVILION
9401 South Oak Park Avenue Oak Lawn, IL 60453
Monday, Wednesday and Friday 6:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday 6:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

WORTH TOWNSHIP SENIOR CENTER
11601 South Pulaski Road
Alsip, IL 60803
708-371-2900 ext 28
Monday – Friday 9:00 – 4:30 a.m.

Remember to get some help and stay cool.

Oak Lawn Senior Center supports box lunch day

Box Lunch Day Thursday, July 26th at 10:30 a.m. is box lunch day at the Oak Lawn Senior Center. The sponsor of the month is Quality Home Health who are located at 12413 South Harlem in Palos Heights. They are a certified full service home health agency who provide personalized services such as professional RN visits, rehab therapies, home health aids, private duty.

There will be a lively discussion on "Medicare Home Health Benefits". The presentation is followed by lunch and bingo. Tickets are available at the Senior Center, 5330 West 95 Street for $4.00. Seating is limited.

For further information you may call 708-499-0240.

Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce Holds Successful Golf Outing

On Wednesday, July 11th, the Chamber held its annual Golf Outing which is the Chamber's largest fundraiser, sixty plus golfers came out to enjoy the links at Stony Creek Golf Course.

The day began with lunch sponsored by Park Lawn Association. On the course, golfers were treated to three "watering holes".

The Chamber received overwhelming support from Chamber members and many Oak Lawn businesses in the form of sponsorships, products and gift certificates. We had 39 hole sponsors this year which gave the sponsors a great opportunity to network with each and every golfer.

Oak Lawn Public Library announces August programming

Local History Photo Exhibit Opening August 11

The Local History Department of the Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Avenue, will display a new photo exhibit titled "Images of Oak Lawn" from August 11 through the summer of 2013 in the library's Local History Room on the second floor. Featuring over 100 images, this photograph exhibit is inspired by the Local History Department's soon to be published book, "Images of America: Oak Lawn", a new book through Arcadia Publishing, and focuses on numerous aspects of Oak Lawn's history including schools, churches, businesses, Round-Up Days and the 1967 tornado.

The Local History Department is open during regular library hours.

"Abraham Lincoln: Self-Made in America" Exhibit

A world-class traveling exhibit from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum will be on display at the Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Avenue, from July 24-Oct. 2. "Abraham Lincoln: Self-Made in America" will feature reproduction artifacts and photos from Lincoln's birth, to his Presidency, to his assassination. The seven-kiosk exhibit will be free to patrons during regular library hours and will be on display on the second floor, near the Periodicals Department. Funding for the exhibit and programs has been generously donated in part by the Friends of the Oak Lawn Library and the Oak Lawn Community Library Foundation.

Abraham Lincoln and Civil War related programs will be held at the library throughout the exhibition.

New Local History Book

The Local History Department of the Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Avenue, is proud to announce the completion of "Images of America: Oak Lawn" - a new book through Arcadia Publishing! Containing roughly 200 photographs with captions and chapter introductions, the book highlights many aspects of Oak Lawn's history, including Round-Up Days and the 1967 tornado. The book will be available for purchase at the library's Reception Booth beginning August 6 for $21.99.

Local History Coordinator Kevin Korst is the author of "Images of America: Oak Lawn." Korst's love of history began as a child and continued to grow during high school and college, eventually propelling him to a career in the field. Korst was delighted by the opportunity to compile and edit this photographic history of the Village of Oak Lawn.

"I hope that our recently completed book, "Images of America: Oak Lawn" will motivate current residents to learn more about our community's history, and leave future generations with a solid foundation from which to start," Korst said. "Spanning over 170 years, the story of Oak Lawn, as told through this book, comprises the successes and struggles of its residents, who slowly built the village into the dynamic community it is today."

Mr. Lincoln's Springfield

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Avenue, will host a free program examining "Mr. Lincoln's Springfield" on Thursday, August 9 at 7 p.m.

Abraham Lincoln proudly called Springfield, Illinois his home before the presidency took him to Washington, D.C. During a tour of the Springfield that Lincoln knew, presenter Nancy McCully will explore Lincoln's house, his law office, the Old State Capitol and the train depot, and venture outside of the city of New Salem, where Lincoln lived as a young adult. The tour will also feature highlights of the Lincoln Tomb and the new Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

This program is being held in conjunction with the library's exhibit "Abraham Lincoln: Self-Made in America" which runs July 24-Oct. 2. For more information about this and other free adult programs, call (708) 422-4990.

Friends of the Oak Lawn Library Trip: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and Springfield

The Friends of the Oak Lawn Library will host an Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and Springfield bus trip on Thursday, Sept. 13. In-person registration begins Saturday, August 11 from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at the library.

Visit the spectacular state-of-the art Abraham Lincoln Museum, tour the historical exhibit "The Journey" covering the scope of Lincoln's life, and view "Lincoln's Eyes" - a multimedia presentation of his life and legacy - at the Union Theatre. Additional trip highlights include "Ghosts of the Library" - a memorable show mixing live actors with special effects, a tour of the Abraham Lincoln home and neighborhood, a visit to the Lincoln Tomb, and a delicious buffet lunch at the Chesapeake House Restaurant.

The bus will depart from the library at 7 a.m. and return at 9:30 p.m. The cost of the trip is $81 for Friends members and $86 for others. Members must present a current membership card or receipt to receive the $5 discount. Two ticket limit. Please be advised that this trip is not wheelchair accessible.

Free Family Movie: "Dr. Seuss's The Lorax"

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Avenue, will host a free lunchtime screening of "Dr. Seuss's The Lorax" on Friday, August 12 at Noon. Patrons of all ages are invited to bring their lunch and enjoy the story of a 12-year-old boy who searches for the one thing that will enable him to win the affection of the girl of his dreams.

To find it, he must discover the story of the Lorax, the grumpy yet charming creature who fights to protect his world. No advance registration is required. Children under age eight must be accompanied by an adult. 2012. PG. 86 min.

The Friends Ongoing Book Sale provides an ever-changing variety of books, magazines and other forms of media at bargain prices. Hardcover books cost 50 cents each, paperbacks are 25 cents and magazines cost five cents each.

Audio visual items are priced as indicated. Funds collected from the book sale support library programming and purchases that are beyond their regular budget.

For more information, call (708) 422-4990 or visit www.oaklawnlibrary.org.

Door County Wisconsin a beautiful place to be in the summer

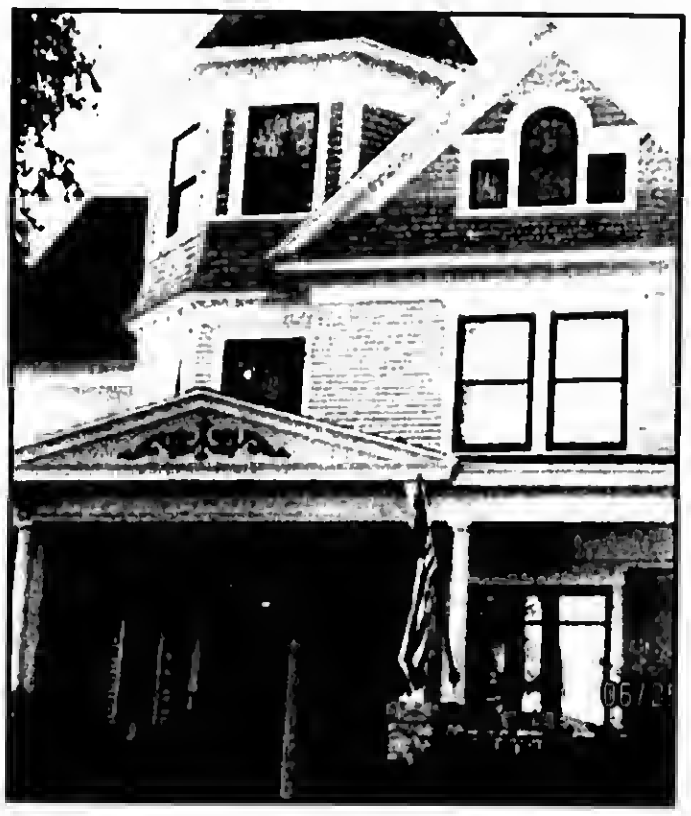
by Annette Dixon

Many people want to see the fall foliage in Door County, but being on the 300 mile shoreline of the Peninsula, life couldn't get any better. You can relax and soak up the information that Jim Robinson can talk about as the owner of The Shoreline Charters. This 33 foot US Coast Guard inspected Navy Vessel will take you to shipwrecks, lighthouses in Door County, the second largest concentration of them, limestone cliffs and quaint waterside villages. For pictures and information, check out their website at www.shorelinecharters.net

Starting in Sturgeon Bay where we stayed at a perfect Bed and Breakfast called White Lace Inn, we were impressed with seeing the beautiful quaint homes all incorporated in a pathway of beautifully landscaped arrangements intertwining all the properties. Beside the main building they had four homes that were moved onto the property and renovated, all dated and furnished with antiques. My rocker was over 150 years old and my room had an antique look with modern facilities, including a whirlpool, tub, shower. Dennis Statz is the owner at quite personable. He loves talking about his place so look on line at www.whitelaceinn.com.

Tug Boat Pervis at Maritime Museum

After traveling to other parts of Door County, some people never leave Sturgeon Bay and think that is only Door County. We visited Fish Creek and ate there, then went to Carlsville on a tour for Door County's famous Coffee and Tea Company. Sure we went to many other places like Sister Bay, Baileys Harbor, Ephraim but I am mentioning some of the places that people forget are in Door County and yet they are on either side of the Peninsula, the Green Bay side or the Michigan Lake side.



White Lace Inn, Sturgeon Bay, Door County, WI

Sturgeon Bay is the only incorporated city in Door County. We visited the Popelka Trenchard Glass Fine Art Gallery & Studio, a fine art glass gallery and working studio of nationally known glass artists, Jeremy Popelka and Stephanie Trenchard. We also visited the Door County Maritime Museum located on the working waterfront of Sturgeon Bay, focusing on Sturgeon Bay shipbuilding and featuring a working periscope, the pilothouse from the Great Lakes ore carrier, the Elba, a fourth order Fresnel lens crafted in 1880 and more. Then explore their exhibit "Ghosts! Haunted Lighthouses of the Great Lakes" www.dcmm.org. You can spend all day just at the Maritime Museum and tug boat.The tug boat Pervis was on display at the Maritime Museum, which was an additional price for tickets but well worth it. Not too may people can say they have ever been on a tug that carried men off to war. This was not only an entertaining experience but also an educational one.

The Maritime Museum had so many exhibits relating to Door County and hands on exhibits that the children love.

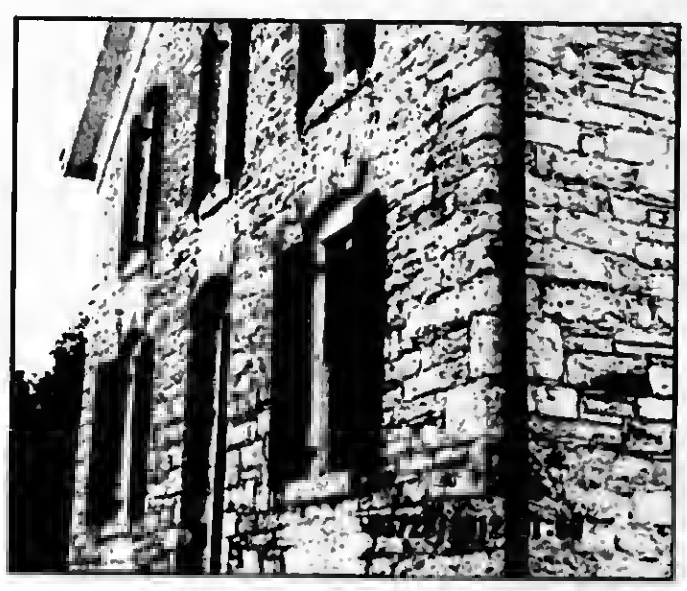
Looking at Washington Island

On the tip of Door County are two beautiful Island and you can catch a ferry very reasonable and see both Washington Island and Rock Island.

Morning Cross Death's Door via ferry and arriving on Washington Island, Wisconsin's largest island (36 square miles) and dubbed "The Crown Jewel" of Door County, it's located "north of the tension line" (the line marking the halfway point between the Equator and the North Pole). Founded in 1850, the island became home to immigrants who established the second oldest Icelandic settlement in the US (www.wisferry.com and www.washingtonisland chamber.com).

We boarded The Cherry Train for a narrated tour of Washington Island with brief stops at The Art & Nature Center, featuring a working beehive, bird calling station, exhibits and artifacts in a circa 1904 schoolhouse building; The Farm Museum, showcasing life on an 1880s Washington Island farm including original buildings moved to the museum site from island locations, the Pioneer Cabin, Double Log Barn, and old-time agricultural implements; Stavkirke, built by island craftsmen and blending ancient Norse tradition with a new form of worship this "Church of Staves" recalls the days of shipbuilding techniques, the stavs (masts) of the vertically placed timbers, the arches, joinery and brackets right down to the dragon heads at the "prows", the structure lives and breathes like a Viking ship; and Schoolhouse Beach, with its unique distinction of being one of only five beaches in the world with all white limestone "polished" rocks (www.cherrytraintours.com).

We departed on the Washington Island ferry (www.wisferry.com/rock.html) from Jackson Harbor for a short 15 minute ride to Rock Island State Park; took a walking tour of this primitive 912-acre pedestrian-only island featuring Pottawatomie Lighthouse (Wisconsin's oldest lighthouse), stone buildings built by a wealthy inventor who owned the island between 1910 and 1945; 10 miles of hiking trails; a one-mile interpretive trail; naturalist programs and 5,000 feet of beach (www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/parks/specific/rockisland/index.html).



Rock Island's Pottawatomie Lighthouse

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Special pricing for Chicago Ridge residents available only at the Chicago Ridge Village Hall (proof of residency required)

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Friday and Saturday admission tickets can be purchased pre-sale at **www.ticketalternative.com for a $5 discount.**

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Chicago Ridge Resident free with valid ID

Friday: American Idol finalist....
JAMES DURBIN
with **Heartache Tonight**
and **Rico Quinn**
Admission - Online presale $15 or $20 at the gate
Gates open 5:30 p.m.

Saturday: **BRET MICHAELS**
with **80's Enough**
and **Bad Penny**
Admission - Online presale $20
or $25 at the gate
Gates open at 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: **Satisfaction**
"A Rolling Stones Experience"
with **Kashmir**
Admission - $5 at the gate,
Gates open at 2:00 p.m.
Chicago Ridge Resident free with valid ID

Stats about The Iceman Commeth when at the Goodman Theatre

"The Iceman Cometh at Goodman Theatre will stand tall as one of the most significant productions in Chicago theater history" (Chicago Tribune). A smash sensation, Artistic Director Robert Falls' major revival of Eugene O'Neill's nearly five-hour, 18-character epic broke box office records and played to 100% of capacity at the Goodman, officially concluding its 50 performance extended run as the most successful show in the Goodman's 87-year history. Audiences numbered more than 42,000 Goodman Subscribers and ticket buyers, 30% of whom attended the Goodman for the first time andand visitors from 46 states and eight countries, including far-reaching destinations such as Sydney, Australia; Hong Kong, China; Rome, Italy; Cape Town, South Africa; and Alberta, Canada.

The production, featuring "as many great performances as I've seen in a single show for years" (The New York Times) prompted The Wall Street Journal to hail "no matter how far you have to go to get there, the place to be right now is Chicago, where Nathan Lane and Brian Dennehy are starring in Robert Falls' revival of The Iceman Cometh." With six performances per week, The Iceman Cometh ran April 21 through June 17, 2012 at Goodman Theatre; no future productions are planned at this time.

Riverfront Theater presents a limited engagement of LaSoiree from July 18 through August 5

Riverfront Theater, Chicago 's newest entertainment destination, presents the highly-anticipated U.S. Premiere of the theatrical phenomenon La Soirée. The production runs Wednesday, July 18 through Sunday, August 5, 2012 at the new Riverfront Theater, located at 650 W. Chicago Avenue, just east of Halsted Street.

Winner of the 2012 London Cabaret Awards, La Soirée combines cabaret, new burlesque, circus sideshow and contemporary variety. The sexy, funny, dangerous world of La Soiree has enchanted audiences across the globe in Edinburgh , Paris , Sydney , Stockholm , Dublin , Montreal New York , Adelaide and Blackpool. La Soiree's internationally-acclaimed artists include stars from La Clique, the Olivier Award-winning show which ran at London 's Hippodrome for nine months. La Soiree is a dynamic collective of some of the most outrageous, hilarious, beautiful and downright bizarre acts you will ever see.

Producer Robert Butters comments, "The La Soirée reviews from around the world have been unanimous raves. We are excited to present this highly-anticipated, sexy and very bold production, which we know will entertain and thrill Chicago. Arriving direct from Montreal and London, La Soirée is an ideal burlesque/cabaret show for Chicago this summer, and a perfect match for the 22,000 square-foot Riverfront Theater tent. We are proud to be hosting this world-renowned company."

La Soirée runs in Riverfront Theater's 70-foot big top circus tent Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 7:30 pm; Fridays at 8:00pm; Saturdays at 5:00pm and 8:00pm; and Sundays at 2:00pm and 6:00pm.

Tickets are $39 to $85, for the three-week, limited engagement are now on sale at the Riverfront Theater box office, 650 W. Chicago Ave , www.RiverfrontTheater.com; and through Ticketmaster, www.ticketmaster.com or 888.556.9484. La Soirée is recommended for ages 16 and older.

Pictured Adam Poss and Charin Alvarez as the doomed mother and son. Photo Credit Michael Brosilow

Oedipus el Rey a modern take on a classic at Victory Gardens

by John B. Boss

Victory Gardens concludes its 2011-12 season with Oedipus el Rey, written by Luis Alfaro and directed by Artistic Director Chay Yew. The production runs now through July 29, 2012 at Victory Gardens Biograph Theater, 2433 North Lincoln Avenue in Lincoln Park .

In Luis Alfaro's thrilling reboot of the daddy of all tragedies, a young Chicano ex-con sets out to be the king of the Los Angeles gangland, fighting against the vicious cycle of fate and violence that awaits him. Set amid the sizzling rhythms and explosive violence of a California barrio, Luis Alfaro's Oedipus el Rey is a sexy, modern take on the classic.

This retelling of the ancient Greek tragedy is a hold on to your seat, non stop rollercoaster of emotion and very honest story telling. The company of professional actors are all from Chicago , which shows that professional equity theaters do not have to go outside of the "neighborhood" to find the wealth of talent needed to produce good quality theater in Chicago .

The title character is played by Adam Poss, a young and beautiful talent who prances about the stage like a lithe tiger engaging the audience with his acting prowess and the vulnerability needed to show he is not the ruler of the roost, although he aspires to make his place in the world. The blind man he believes to be his father Tiresius is played brilliantly by Eddie Torres. He is the perfect mentor for Oedipus. However the young wannabe has his own plan and goes to L.A. where he begs a former prison buddy and gangland contact Creon to give him shelter. Arturo Soria plays the thug with great strength and believability. On his way to visit Creon, Oedipus has an altercation with a very strong older man, Laius, whom he murders. That man is of course, his real father. Madrid St. Angelo portrays the role with a brilliant, strong delivery of arrogance and machismo.

The role of Laius' widow, Jocasta is played brilliantly by Charin Alvarez, whose thin frame is in direct opposition to the strength and commitment she has to her portrayal. Her scene with Poss' Oedipus, one of the longest in the show is truly amazing to watch. It is honest and raw and leaves you breathless. The entire scene is staged on a very slow moving turn table that draws you in to the moment and you forget the actors are naked on stage.

The realization that Oedipus has just had an incestuous marriage with his mother is stated with a simple word "Mama" which takes your breath away. This is followed by the subsequent blinding of Oedipus by his mothers hands and the suicide of the mother. The staging is shocking and honest.

The entire show is accompanied by a brilliant score that keeps you in the moment, percussion by the actors and stunning lighting and violence effects. Playing the Greek chorus of thugs is Jessie David Perez and Steve Casillas who's energy and physical attributes add to the story and engage you every moment they are on stage. The show is 95 minutes without an intermission. Regular run: $20 - $50 $15 Student Tickets are available for every performance.

Box Office: The Box Office is located at 2433 N. Lincoln Avenue, Chicago,

Phone 773-871-3000

victorygardens.org

Annette's Picks

Crowns is at Goodman Theatre, it extended eight performances, also featured guest Gospel Vocalist Darius Brooks and nine others. Based on the book by Craig Marberry, playwright and director, Regina Taylor, who did such a magnificent job, Crowns is consider to be the most produced new musical in the U.S. over the past decade. Tickets are at a premium, call early and purchase them before August 12th. Call 312-443-3800 GoodmanThertre.org

Disney's Beauty and the Beast at Chicago Shakespeare Theatre is a real family delight. The set design, costumes, acting are all superb. Music is by Alan Menken, Lyrics by Howard Ashman and Tim Rice, Book by Linda Woolverton. Directed by Rachel Rockwell, Beauty and the Beast is now playing through August 26, tickets range from $18 to $25, call 312-595-5600 or visit website at www.chicagoshakes.com

Ready for a Laugh a minute, attend Drury Lane's Production of **The 39 Steps.** Jeff Dumas and Paul Kalina are the Clown and slap stick comedy is their bag. Peter Simon Hilton and Angela Ingersoll paired well together, all had dual parts, which added to the humor.

Service Directory

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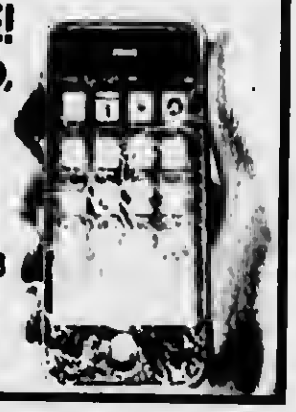
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Obituaries

Marijo Doody
9/14/1936 - 6/15/2012

Marijo Doody, beloved daughter of the late James and Josephine Doody; loving sister of Betty (Ken) Duffy; fond aunt of Jennifer (Chip) Anderson, Ken Jr. (Kim) and Matthew (Mary) Duffy; and great aunt of Ryan Anderson and Carissa Duffy died June 15 from renal failure. Marijo was a retired Chemist and Theatre Reviewer for Village View Newspapers. She was a resident of Evergreen Park for more than 40 years and more recently a resident of Moraine Court Retirement Home. Some of her attributes are listed in a book titled Italian American Women of Chicagoland. Published by Arcadia Publishing Co. Marijo was a contributed author in the book. Other notings of her life loves were Musichorale, Conductor/ Director Jeff Silhan, Southwest Symphony Orchestra Board Member, St. Bernadette Choir, St. Bernadette Ladies Golf Organization, Ladies Bowling, Evergreen Park Pinnacle and Bridge Clubs, Evergreen Park Senior Board of Commission, Beverly Church Choral Group and many McDonald Restaurant Senior Day gatherings.

Marijo led a fruitful and happy life surrounded by people who knew and accepted her for being a happy go lucky type of personality who never harmed anyone in thought or word. She went out of this world peacefully, without pain and hopefully is in the arms of Jesus Christ her Lord and Savior.

Visitation: Monday, June 18th 9:30 a.m.

Thomas "Bud" Gavin
2/24/1925 - 7/7/201

Worth Township Clerk

Thomas "Bud" Gavin served as Worth Township Clerk for 23 years. Prior to being elected Clerk, "Bud" served as a Township Trustee for 8 years, acting as the Liaison to the Youth Commission introducing the Toys for Tots, Coats and Kids, Identichild and S.T.E.P. (Systematic Training for Effective Parenting) Programs.

During his tenure as Township Clerk, he prided himself in operating the Clerk's Office under budget. Clerk Gavin was serious about seeking ways to cut waste and avoid unnecessary spending and his record proved it. However, cutting costs had not meant cutting service. Clerk Gavin was responsible for the installation of the first computer system in the Clerk's Office, which had provided instant access to important records. He was also responsible for such programs as: the issuance of Handicap Parking Permits; the sale of Cook County vehicle stickers to residents of unincorporated areas; the acceptance of passport applications; and even a Travel Assistance Program; a cost-free service which provides residents with maps, brochures and information on every state and other travel destinations.

Thomas "Bud" Gavin was born in Chicago, attended St. Margaret of Scotland Grammar School, St. Rita High School and graduated from DePaul University. For over 50 years, he had lived in the Hometown and Oak Lawn communities where he and his wife, Lila, raised their six children. He was a veteran of the United States Navy and took great pride in serving on the USS Bennington.

Gavin had a long history of civic involvement. He had served with many Oak Lawn agencies, including the Civil Service Commission, the Zoning and Planning board and the Oak Lawn Celebration Commission. He had been president of Oak Lawn Baseball for boys, and served as an active member of St. Catherine of Alexandria Church and was a member of local Chambers of Commerce. He also instituted and coached football at our Lady of Loretto in Hometown. He was coordinator of "Home Runs for Hope", a fundraiser for Misericordia Home for Special Children. He was also a member of the Irish/American Alliance, Back of the Yards Business & Industrial Committee and was on Park Lawn Rally Committee. He had served as President of the Stockyard Kiwanis International and had been president of the Cook County Clerk's Association and Vice President of the TOCC Clerk's Division.

Bud Gavin lectured or taught business and management at Eastern Illinois University, Moraine Valley Community College and St. Xavier University. A lifelong successful businessman, Gavin retired from R. H. Donnelly Company and for many years worked as the Community Relations Director of Prospect Federal Bank in Worth. As Director, he helped establish the Worth Farmer's Market.

Bud Gavin was a model of honesty, integrity and truth in government. He always considered it an honor to be able to serve his community and he will be missed.

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We have found that through the years of publishing the readers are interested in general information and also local happenings within their community. Therefore because we are fully electronic, we will not be accepting faxed or mailed news releases.

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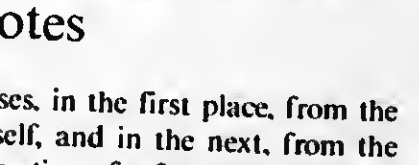

Help Teens Learn About Business

The student entrepreneurs of the Toys By Teens team could teach something about business to kids across the country.

(NAPSA)-When it comes to toys and games, one group of young people isn't just playing around.

In fact, it's helped create a great new game and hopes to use it to raise money for a not-for-profit organization that goes into schools to teach teens entrepreneurship.

The Project

These students at New York's prestigious Stuyvesant High School are on their way to becoming the next generation of toy inventors. They put together Toys By Teens, a nonprofit toy company that encourages kids to develop original toys and games and then market the inventions.

Founded by Pam Chmiel, who originated the Teen Entrepreneur Boot Camp, it works in partnership with mentor and toy inventor Dr. Howard Wexler. He donates an original toy or game for the kids to manufacture, market and sell. Throughout the school year, the youngsters meet with professionals in accounting, product development, distribution, public relations, graphic design, market research and more who teach them essential entrepreneurial skills needed to successfully build a brand.

"We teach teen entrepreneurship by giving them a real product to work on getting into the marketplace," says Chmiel. "Dr. Wexler offered to donate one of his inventions to our program and work with the teens on refining the game so we decided to form Toys By Teens."

The Game

The teens are launching their first product campaign for the game "Correct Me If I'm Wrong." Consisting of 19 different games, the product features a play-write-wipe dry-erase board and marker for clean, easy play.

"We have never manufactured or sold a product before, so we are planning to start slowly by selling to boutique toy stores across the country to get our feet wet," says Chmiel. "Our plan is to have the students manage the sales. We hope to become a full-fledged toy company for the purpose of giving teens a real hands-on business experience."

How to Help

Toys By Teens is currently hoping to raise $20,000 through the IndieGoGo campaign. You can be a part of the project by contributing at www.indiegogo.com. Just type "Toys By Teens" into the search box to see the game and learn more.

Famous Quotes

True happiness arises, in the first place, from the enjoyment of one's self, and in the next, from the friendship and conversation of a few select companions.

—Joseph Addison

How soon the sunk spirits rise again, how quick the little wounds of fortune skin over and are forgotten.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Teachers cannot teach alone; students cannot learn alone; education must be a family affair.

—Lady Bird Johnson

Ideas are like rabbits. You get a couple, learn how to handle them, and pretty soon you have a dozen.

—John Steinbeck

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SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 39 | Number 3 | August 7, 2012

Burbank, Evergreen Park, Hickory Hills, Justice, Oak Lawn

Hickory Hills welcomes State Representative Kelly Burke

by Jan Glaz

State Representative Kelly Burke collected a round of applause from the City Council and residents after her presentation at the Village of Hickory Hills City Council Meeting on July 26th. Burke admitted that her presentation this year is similar to the previous year in respect to the point that the State once again had a balanced budget with no borrowing, no gimmick, and made the pension payment in full to demonstrate good faith to public workers. The downside of her report came in regard to the senior citizen population. Burke disclosed that prescription programs for low income seniors were cut because Medicaid was on the brink of going under and they had to cut a billion and a half dollars from it. "If we had not made those targeted cuts the whole program would be in jeopardy," said Kelly.

On the municipal front, continued Kelly, we hear from most of the towns, the Mayors and Trustees, and we pass their information along to our leaders to help balance the budget problems. There's still about 4 billion dollars of unpaid bills but the State has appropriated money specifically to pay down those unpaid bills. Pension issues are still being debated and whatever will be done will be fair and stable. The last big issue Burke discussed was electrical aggregation and the fact that most towns have already adopted aggregation, the city of Chicago is putting it on the ballot in November, and the State has passed a law for Counties to do it for their unincorporated areas. "It's a great idea; we're able to save money," said Kelly.

Police Swearing in Ceremony: Brian Nelligan, a native of Hickory Hills, is the newest member of the Hickory Hills Police Department. Brian attended Queen of Martyrs grammar school, Brother Rice High School, and the University of Illinois Champlain, where he obtained a Bachelor of Science degree from the college of business. Brian comes from a long history of Police Officers. After Brian was sworn in, his father Frank, a retired Chicago Police officer, accepted the honor of pinning on the new badge. Chaplin, Father Joseph Mol, bestowed a blessing on the new 'peace' officer followed by vigorous applause... and refreshments.

Mayor Howley reminded all before the meeting closed that one of Hickory Hills most popular eateries, Wendy's, is officially closed. When Wendy's began renovating the restaurant a few months back only the drive-thru remained open for business. Although Wendy's is entirely closed a new improved version is set to open within a few months.

SCHOOL BEGINS FOR DISTRICT 124 STUDENTS

Children attending Evergreen Park Elementary School District 124 in grades Kindergarten through Grade 8 will begin the 2012-2013 school year on Thursday, August 23rd. Student attendance hours on August 23rd will be from 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. August 23rd will be the first day for the Before School Extended Day Program and August 24th will be the first day for the After School Extended Day Program. The first day for Early Childhood and Pre-kindergarten Program will be August 27th.

New Student/Change of Address/Kindergarten registration, will take place by appointment only beginning August 3rd. Please call the district office (708/423-0950) to schedule an appointment. The following documents are required for New Students/Change of Address/Kindergarten registration:

· child's original birth certificate with county seal
· social security number
· a 'student in good standing form' from your child's previous school

Additionally, you will need:

· one of these items: o current mortgage papers
o current homeowner's insurance policy
o apartment lease listing all tenants; with an original signed/dated receipt from last month's rent payment and a certificate of inspection
· one of these items: o Illinois drivers license or
o Illinois photo ID
· two additional proofs of residency from the list below

Note: If your area code does not match the Evergreen Park 708 area code, the phone bill must be provided showing your address.

Returning students will be continuing the residency verification process and fee payment days on the dates listed below. Registration packets for all currently registered students were sent home with students to parents/guardians on June 1st. The packets contained a fee worksheet and an emergency information/residency verification form. The fee worksheet and emergency information/residency verification form, along with the following acceptable proofs of residency from the list below, must be presented at registration: .

· a current lease
· two current forms of proof of residency:

o one of these items: § gas bill § electric bill § credit card bill § cable bill § water bill § phone bill o one of these items: § bank statement § mortgage statement § pay check stub (with address) § medicaid statement dated the month of July.

Payment of school fees or arrangements to pay fees will take place at registration.

Wednesday, August 8 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Thursday, August 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m Friday, August 10 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Monday, August 13 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 14 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.Please note: Fees will not be accepted by mail. School information may be picked up in all schools on Thursday, August 16, 2012 from 11:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Your child's information will not be made available to you without residency confirmation and a receipt from the Business Office. Please attend one of the dates listed above prior to August 16th to avoid delays at your child's school.

Justice considers Solar Powered Signs

by Jan Glaz

On July 23rd, at the Village of Justice Board of Trustees Meeting, Trustee Symonds shared information regarding the use of Solar Signs in hope of utilizing the signs in the village of Justice. At a previous meeting Trustee Rusch stated that IDOT uses them at no energy cost. Rusch had the opportunity to see the operation of Solar Signs and they appeared to be an excellent safety option especially in areas where children are frequently present. Ken White, Director of Public Works, obtained pricing of the signs at the request of Trustee Symonds and informed the board of trustees that the more they buy the less it is. The purchase price is $1600 apiece or $1440 each, with an order of six signs. The price of a standard stop sign is approximately $40.00 per sign.

Trustee Melanie Kuban brought a motion that the board accepted regarding updating and approving the Execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Village of Justice, Cook County, Illinois and the State of Illinois State Police for Criminal History Record Inquiries. Kuban explained that this allows doing criminal history record checks through the FBI.

Trustee Sue Small reported the fact that on August 1st the village website will be taken down. The new home page will then read: Under Construction... until the new site is complete.

Trash Warning: Public Utilities shared news regarding garbage pickup. He stated that residents cannot put out construction items but they can discard large pieces like furniture etc., however, the garbage company will keep track of the addresses where the pieces are picked up in order to regulate frequency. Large items can only be picked up occasionally.

Two new business licenses were approved before the meeting adjourned: A Home Occupation License of Sireen Investment Group doing business at 8045 W. Marion Drive in Justice and the business license for Soup, Sandwiches and More at 8025 W. 79th Street in Justice.

Evergreen Park to eradicate rat problem

by Matt Mayer

Residents complained about rat problems at the July 17 Evergreen Park Board of Trustees meeting. Two residents from the 9300 block of Spaulding Ave. addressed the board with their concerns about rats in the village stating they caught 9 rats in one week with traps they personally purchased. They said the village inspector was out and told them that a rat chewed a garbage can. The inspector told them to look for burrows; they found burrows in both yards. Mayor James Sexton said the village has an exterminator that comes out twice a week in addition to the village exterminator. "We will have them out there tomorrow and continue to abate them," Sexton said.

This has happened before in different areas. We will find out what the problem is immediately, said Sexton. What we have done in other areas is go yard-to-yard and house-to-house and look for a food source. There could also be abandoned cars or boats and swimming pools there, said Sexton.

Sexton also said he has seen this many times and there's always a reason why they're there. Some years back we had rat problems on Sacramento Avenue and some other areas. We cleaned up those areas , we found some garages that were in disrepair and some cars and boats that were there for years. Again the problem will be taken care of, said Sexton.

Village View

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FAR SOUTH EDITION

Volume 10 | Number 15 | August 7 , 2012

Oak Forest, Orland Park, Tinley Park

Orland joins with IOC to recover debts

by Jan Glaz

An Intergovernmental Agreement by and between the Illinois Office of the Comptroller (IOC) and the Village of Orland Park regarding access to the Comptroller's Local Debt Recovery Program met with full board approval on July 16th at the Village of Orland Park Board of Trustees Meeting. Based on the initial analysis, the Village may be able to recover a significant portion of outstanding debts owed to the Village. Categories that the city can submit include outstanding parking tickets, red light violations, water bills, and miscellaneous accounts receivable that have not been liened.

How it works: Once a debt is submitted to the IOC, the debt remains outstanding for a period not to exceed 7 years (from the initial date of issuance of the debt. Prior to the IOC issuing a state tax refund, commercial payment, state payroll check, or lottery check, the amount owed to the local government, plus an administrative fee, will be deducted from the payment and deposited in the Comptroller's Local Debt Recovery Trust Fund. The debtor will be provided with written notice of the action and has 60 days to protest the deduction. If no protest is made or the protest is denied, the amount owed is transferred to the local government.

It was reported that the village will unveil its online program registration beginning August 10. "The Village of Orland Park is very pleased to make online registration available for its Recreation Department programs. This will make it easier for busy people to register from the comfort of their own homes any time of the day," said Orland Park Mayor Dan McLaughlin. Village residents will be able to register online for select programs listed in the Village of Orland Park Recreation Department Fall 2012 Program Guide.

Nonresidents will have the same opportunity beginning August 22.The new guide will be distributed in print form in the August 2 edition of the Orland Park Prairie Newspaper. Programs not available for online registration will be noted in the guide. Participants can visit the village's website atwww.orland-park.il.us and click on the "register online" button. New participants who have not previously registered for village programs must visit the Recreation Administrative Office, 14600 South Ravinia Avenue, or the village's Sportsplex at 11351 West 159th Street to verify residency and obtain login and pin information.

Item of Interest: Before the meeting adjourned the Board of Trustees agreed to a budget adjustment due to an overall decrease in revenues of $24,573 and an overall increase in expenditures of $25,470,536. The General and Recreation and Parks Funds have equal adjustments in revenue and expenditures due to the transfer of funds from the Stabilization Fund for staffing changes. The General Fund adjustment to revenues and expenditures is $90,765 and the adjustment for the Recreation and Parks Fund is $180,678.

Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting Krydynski, Frigo LLC

The Law Offices of Krdynski, Frigo LLC recently celebrated their grand opening with a ribbon cutting celebration. Pictured are (left to right): Tinley Park Mayor Ed Zabrocki. Hannah Krydynski, Vince Krydynski, Paul Frigo, Tinley Park Chamber of Commerce President Bob Haustein and Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce President Tami Khuntia. For more information on the Chamber please call (708) 349-2972 or visit their website at www.orlandparkchamber.org.

Oak Forest residents shouts Our City has gone to the Dogs

By Jan Glaz

At the Oak Forest City Council Meeting July 24th, Jason Akai, a concerned citizen and volunteer, addressed the city council and then shouted. "Our city has gone to the dogs, the dog park that is." Akai attended the meeting to share information regarding the "Bark for the Park Contest" which is being conducted by PetSafe, the world's leading developer of feeding, fencing, and behavior training for dogs and cats. Jason reported that Oak Forest is in second place, having over 95,000 votes; he also made an urgent request for additional votes, not only from Oak Forest, but from residents in all the surrounding towns, as the contest would end July 31st. If Oak Forest wins second place the city will receive $25,000.

"Our Bark for a Park Committee has been working tirelessly to bring a dog park to our town," said Alderman Laura Clemons. Mayor Kuspa replied, "This is a big thing for us, for volunteers to raise money to move forward with the park." He confirmed that over the past months volunteers have conducted various fundraisers and a plot of land, 7 acres, has been set aside. He also stated that the more money volunteers can raise; the more amenities the city can include in the park. Alderman Clemons said, "If all goes well the park will open in mid-September. The city is working on an intergovernmental agreement with the Forest Preserves." Mayor Kuspa then disclosed that the proposed location is approximately 160th and Oak Park Avenue, which is convenient for Tinley Park, Orland Park and Oak Forest residents.

The Board of Trustees approved the date of August 7th from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at City Hall, as National Night Out in Oak Forest. The Police Department will be offering free tours of the Police Facilities including lock up, the roll call room, and the 24/7 dispatch center. Also, crime prevention items will be highlighted to maintain the safety of a resident's home, such as recommended locks, outdoor lighting etc.

An Ordinance was approved before the meeting adjourned; revising ministerial components of the legislation creating the Citizens Advisory Commission. City Clerk Burkhardt explained that this ordinance in part will streamline the administration of the appointment list after approval in regards to the length of term served by Commissioners, instead of a term in years: once they are seated they will stay seated until either retirement or replacement. (Read more about the Dog Park on page 6)

Tinley Park Park District School Announcement

PRESCHOOL Mad Scientists- August 8 for ages 3 ½-5 Mom and Me Princess Day at the Spa-August 17- For ages 4-6 Mom and Me Princess Day at the Spa-August 18- For ages 4-6 Make Your Own Backpack-August 18 for ages 3-10 Gym Cubs- Every Tuesday August 21-October 9 for ages 2-3 (with adult) Lion Kings-Every Tuesday August 21-October 9 for ages 3-5 Beginner Girls Gymnastics-Every Tuesday August 21-October 9 for ages 6-12

YOUTH Young Rembrandts Cars of The Speedway -Tuesday-Thursday August 7-9 For ages 6-12. How to Make Balloon Animals-August 7 for ages 6-13 Mad Scientists for Juniors-August 8 for ages 5-8 Creature Connections-Every Wednesday August 8-September 12 for ages 5-8 Wings, Jaws and Claws-Every Wednesday August 8-September 12 for ages 9-12 Mom and Princess Magic for Juniors-August 17 for ages 7-11 Mom and Princess Magic for Juniors-August 18 for ages 7-11

TEENS Raging Waves Water Park-August 13 for grades 6-10 Girls Night out at the Pit Stop-August 13 for grades 6-10

ADULTS Kids, School and Paperwork-Organize It!-August 1 Key Life Decisions: Are You Prepared?-August 1 Salsa 1- Every Wednesday August 1-29 for

ADULT ages. AKC S.T.A.R Puppy Class-Every Wednesday August 1-September 5. Cupcake Decorating-August 2 for 16-Adult Photography II: Creatively Take Pictures-Every Thursday August 9-30 Numerology-August 15 Reiki Teaching Series-August 25 Mature Adults Birthday B-I-N-G-O!- August 2 for ages 55 and older Line Dancing-Beginner-Every Thursday Aug 2-22. Intermediate/Beginner Line Dancing-Every Monday Aug.6-27

AARP Driver Safety Program-For ages 50-August 15 Senior Luncheons-August 21

Health & Fitness Cardio Salso-Every Wednesday-August 1-29-Ages Adults Hatha Yoga-Every Wednesday Aug.1-Sept 5-Ages Adults Hatha Yoga-Every Friday Aug.3- Sept 7October. Co-Ed 14" Thursday Leagues-August 2- October Co-Ed 14" Friday League-August 3-October

Village View

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SOUTH SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 13 | Number 15 | August 7, 2012

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

Palos Heights rejects Town Square development

by Matt Mayer

Following the previous Palos Heights City Council meeting approving a motion to authorize the city attorney to draft an ordinance approving the preliminary Plan Unit Development (PUD) for Palos Town Square the City Council, the Palos Heights city council rejected the preliminary PUD plan ordinance by 4-3 at the July 17th meeting.

The dissenting alderman's main opposition to the development was the construction of an additional bank located at the northeast corner of Rt 83 and 127th street. In addition to the bank, the proposed preliminary PUD development would have consisted of an 8,250 sq. ft. retail building; an 18,000 sq. ft. retail building; an 8,365 sq. ft. automotive service center; a 6,852 sq. ft. retail building; a 6,000 sq. ft. retail building as well as 261 parking places and a detention pond. The parcel will continue to remain undeveloped.

Other highlights: A proposal for new recycling toters and a three-year extension of Allied/Republic Services (ARS) waste hauler contract was approved. The contract states that new 96 gallon recycling toters will be delivered to residents between September 1 -15 with the option of a 65 gallon toter upon request. The $25 container delivery charge will be waived until January 1, 2013 while toters are being replaced. ARS is also responsible for the cost of informing residents of the change. The slated date for every other week recycling pickup is Jan 1, 2013. The existing contract will be extended three years ending Aug 3, 2017, the price increase, which was scheduled to go in effect Sept 1, 2012, will be delayed until Sept 1, 2013. Also the Sept 1, 2013 rate increase will be effective September 1, 2014 and the rate increase in 2015 and 2016 will be 4 percent.

Palos Heights Parks and Recreation Little Learner Preschool

Register your child for preschool! The Palos Heights Parks and Recreation Little Learners Preschool is a great place to grow! Kids will participate in a variety of valuable interactive learning activities such as discover time, clean up time, circle time, small group learning, show and tell, snack time, library time, large motor skills time, and end of the day circle time. The program focuses on healthy living and healthy eating. Children will exercise and learn about healthy foods, and will participate in a communal healthy snack time. We look forward to next school year, and spending 3 days a week, 3 hours a day with your Little Learner. We will be doing lots more additional innovative learning, exercise, dancing, singing, special events! We'll even be having guest speakers!On Wednesday, August 22nd Little Learner's preschool teacher Rita Schultz will be at the Palos Heights Farmer's Market selling her handmade jewelry and representing the Palos Heights Parks and Recreation Department. Feel free to stop by and ask her questions about the program!

Registration is now open. For more information call the Palos Heights Parks and Recreation Department at 708-361-1807 or visit the Palos Heights Parks and Rec. Center at 6601 W. 127th Street, Palos Heights , IL 60463.

St. Laurence High School announces new wrestling coach

St. Laurence High School recently hired Brian Daly as their new wrestling coach. Brian competed as a wrestler for a decade, including four trips to the NCAA National Finals and two times in the largest Division I NCAA Championship Toumament. He comes to St. Laurence with a variety of coaching experience, including working at Landmark Education, a training and development company, as well as Awakened Athletes. In addition to his coaching experience, Brian has helped create the New Life Fitness center, as well as the Small Team Fitness program and "aNewFitnessModel.com".

In his coaching, Brian works to guide others and help them reach their full potential. "We are thrilled to have Brian as our new wrestling coach," said Tim Chandler, Athletic Director. "Wally Bzdyk did a grent job with the program, and I am confident that Brian will continue to move it forward. He has a great wrestling pedigree and a lot of connections in the wrestling world that will suit him well in his new role. I was really impressed with his passion, energy, and strong Catholic beliefs during his interview process. Brian is surrounding himself with some excellent coaches on his staff, including Wally who will stay on as an assistant, and I am looking for some great accomplishments from our wrestling program." Brian attended De La Salle Institute for high school, followed by Augustana College (Rock Island, IL). He lives in Chicago near Midway airport, and continues to travel for speaking and training engagements.

Worth Police National NightOut 2012

Join us for our first annual National Night Out. Meet your local Worth Police Officers and learn about personal safety. Have fun promoting crime prevention and neighborhood spirit.

Beginning at 7:00 pm on August 7, at the Worth Village Hall at 7112 W. 111th Street there will be a walk from 111th address to 10701 S. Oak Park Avenue. There will be ice cream, hot dogs, at Peaks Park. Also games, music, jumping hounce houses, free souvenirs and door prizes will be raffled off, including Worth Days Mega Passes. All minor children must be accompanied by an adult. The event will conclude at 9:30 pm.

What is National Night Out? National Night Out is an effective and enjoyable program to prmote neighborhood spirit and police community partnerships. The event has ben held annually since 1984 and is meant to increase awareness about police programs in communities,such as drug prevention, neighborhood watch and crime prevention efforts.

This is Worth Police first annual National Night Out.We would like to thank our sponsors Dunkin Donuts/Baskin Robbins at 6707 W. 111th St. and El Gallo De Oro at 11400 South Harlem Ave. and The Village of Worth, Windy City Subs, The Worth Snack Shop, Neat Repeats Resale.

If you have any questions, you can contact Deputy Chief Mark Micetich or Officer Anthony Ritz at 708-448-3979 or eamil at mmicetich@villageofworth.com aritz@villageofworth.com

Knights of Columbus help the Intellectual Disabilities to the southside of Chicago

Father Perez Knights of Columbus Council 1444 on Chicago's Southwest Side recently distributed the proceeds from its 2011–2012 Drive for People with Intellectual Disabilities to fourteen community-based secular and religious organizations that provide services for individuals with disabilities.

Bernie Moonan, a retired Chicago police officer and chairman of Perez's Drive for Persons with an Intellectual Disability presented donations to the following organizations' representatives: Chicago State University – Bob Szyman; Covenant Enabling Residences, Jack McNicholas; Grimes School, Terry McElligott; Illinois Veterans Home - Manteno, Kathy Zanzota; Misericordia Homes, Tom and Steph Westphal; St. Cajetan SPRED (Special Religious Education), Joe Quane; St. Christina SPRED, Judy Hrad; Stevenson School, Marie Menzota.

Representatives from Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences Special Olympics Team, Elim Christian School, Garden Center, Haley School, Mt. Greenwood Special Recreation, and Our Lady of the Ridge SPRED. Over the past six years the community has contributed more than $300,00. The council's 2012-2013 drive kicks off on Friday, September 21st with the Knight's annual "Tootsie Roll Drive in Mount Greenwood, Morgan Park, Beverly, and other local communities.

Village View

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B-MAC EDITION

Volume 6 | Number 15 | August 7, 2012

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Alsip Mayor challenges board of Trustees

by Jan Glaz

Mayor Patrick Kitching was not pleased to discover an ordinance listed on the agenda that could result in a cut of the Mayors salary. On July 16th at the Village of Alsip Board of Trustees Meeting an ordinance favored by the trustees read: Presentation of an Ordinance for Establishing Compensation and Rate of Pay for Elected Officials of the Village of Alsip. Kitching blocked a motion to approve by heading into a round of discussion, during which it was revealed that the board of trustees sought passage of the ordinance to pave the way for Alsip to hire a City Administrator; thus reducing the duties and pay of the Mayor to part-time. Mayor Kitching opened the floor to the public, for a second time, to allow for resident participation regarding the ordinance.

Several residents stood in defense of the Mayor including former trustee Kevin Michaels who suggested that the matter be put on a referendum in November for the people to decide. Various members of the board disagreed. In an effort to bring down the ordinance the Mayor noted that since he has taken office the city has rallied. Kitching said, "The village is in better financial condition than it's ever been in, in its entire history, since 1927." He questioned Trustee Quinn the Finance Director and each member of the board if they knew how much money was in the General Revenue Fund Reserves. Not one had a clue. "I didn't want to do this," said the Mayor of his pending revelation, "This village right now is sitting on just short of $5 million that we have saved up... I'm sorry that I had to announce this because now this village board will spend this money on not what they're supposed to be spending it on... Go ahead and make your motion." Ordinance and Legislation Director Dalzell replied, "There is no motion."

At Last: Members of JAWA have been appearing at the Alsip Village Board Meetings for months and at long last, before the meeting adjoumed, the city council agreed to an Ordinance Approving the First Amended Intergovernmental Agreement for the Establishment of the South Suburban Joint Action Water Agency. The amendment allows Alsip to join in with other member communities in an effort to tap into Lake Michigan water and construct a pipe line and filtration plant, thus avoiding the escalating water raises imposed by the City of Chicago.

Crestwood Mayor reports change at AMC Theaters

By Jan Glaz

A change of command met with approval at the Crestwood Village Board Meeting on the evening of July 19th. The amendment, a Consideration of Second Amendment to Lease Agreement by and between the Villnge of Crestwood and American Multi-Cinema, Inc., a corporation that operates movie theatre chains in the United States. The company was formerly known as Durwood Theatres founded in 1920 and changed its name to American Multi-Cinema, Inc. in 1968. Based in Kansas City, Missouri, American Multi-Cinema, Inc. operates as a subsidiary of AMC Entertainment, Inc.

The approval allows for a change of tenant to take command at the AMC Theaters, located at 13221 Rivercrest Drive, within the Rivercrest Shopping Mall, former sight of Howell Airport. The Airport was owned by William Howell Sr. who purchased the land at the southwest corner of Illinois Highway 83 and Cicero Avenue in 1941 for $18,000.00. At the time of purchase the property was a prairie, a vast wasteland. His son Bill Howell agreed, in 1988, to sell the property to First National Realty for $12 million.

Noteworthy Approvals: An acceptance of revised appointment "2012" reflecting employee salary adjustments; a bond requirement waived and permit granted for the issuance of Crestwood Police Department annual fundraiser for the dates of 7/23/12 to 8/26/12; Lavida Massage a business located at 5011 Cal Sag Road was granted a Special Use Ordinance; and the last order of business, an announcement by Mayor Stranczek of the Consideration of Appointments to the position of part-time Police Officers, at an hourly rate of $12.25 per hour: Derek D. DeLaCruz; Christopher J. Doeseckle; Walter Klimek; Paul D. Lorenzini; Michael W. Ronan; Julie E. Smith; Kevin R. Taylor and Anthony P. Travaglini

Crestwood Water on the Rise

by Jan Glaz

Mayor Stranczek with the approval of the City Council reported the beginning of upgrades to the Crestwood pumping station. This is a project of major proportions with a cost ranging over $300,000 well spent dollars: as the systems lifecycle is expected to reach three or more decades.

The system boasts a new computerized control system that will easily allow workers to spot potential water main breaks and also to accurately monitor water pressure at all times. The upside of the upgrade is an efficient delivery of top-quality water to businesses and citizens alike.

When the Rules of Order were suspended at the August 2nd Village Board Meeting so that any interested parties might address the Village Board, a resident questioned why his favorite eatery, Mr. Sub, closed their doors. Mayor Stranczek replied. "They opened up, when taxes went up, they couldn't afford the taxes."

The resiuent also asked about homes that looked deserted and wanted to know whether they were up for sale, or not. The Mayor instructed him to make note of the addresses and call the village for information.

After approving an Ordinance amending The Liquor Control Act of the Crestwood Village and before the end of the meeting, Mayor Stranczek and the board agreed to appoint to the position of part-time Fire & Rescue Unit & Probationary Volunteer Firefighters, subject to their signing their bond and oath, Curtney Koopman, Jeff Anderson, Timothy Walsh and Mark Binendyk.

Midlothian agrees to appropriate millions of dollors

by Jan Glaz

An Appropriations Ordinance, a legal tool to set a limit on spending which includes pensions, the library and TIF districts, met with approval at the Board of Trustees Meeting held July 25th. Mayor Stephans explained that the TIF District for the 147th Street Cicero Project is likely to run into millions of dollars and the city cannot spend money it does not appropriate. Stephens confirmed that the money will not come from the taxpayers, but from the TIF district. "The way the government forces us to publicize this information its almost spun against municipalities... unless you understand the process it looks like we're raising your taxes but we're not. Any money to be spent, whether it comes from taxes, bonds, or grants we have to make sure it is going to be in the appropriations.

The City Council decided not to authorize Mayor Stephens to execute an Illinois Department of Transportation Joint Agreement and Resolution of same. Stephens informed the board that IDOT is putting a new road into Posen from Kedzie to Western which will cost about one million dollars and Midlothian's side of that intersection is also affected; four street lights have to be replaced at a cost of $55,000 for the purpose of unifomity. The Mayor also disclosed that Posen may be eligible for grant money which could allow for Midlothian to share-in a portion. Therefore, it was decided by the council members to postpone the execution of the Joint agreement.

Village Chamber Renamed: Mayor Stephens and the Board of Trustees proclaimed that the Village Meeting Chamber will be known as the Michael T. Woike Chamber in recognition of Woike's outstanding service to the residents of Midlothian Illinois and on the occasion of his resignation from the position of Village Clerk. Prior to the close of the meeting, Mayor Stephens announced that Midlothian will be hosting an open town hall meeting in connection with Toll Way Authorities for the purpose of educating the public on the progress and plans in regards to the 294 and I-57 Interchange. The meeting will be held on 6:30 pm at the Rady Harry Lodge, 3220 145th Street.

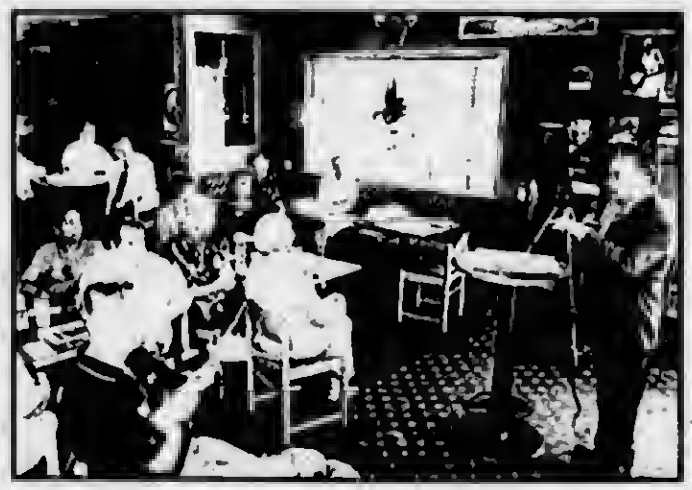


Photo by George Poulos & Assoc. Mayor Donald Peloquin of Blue Island addressed business leaders.

Pappas Urges Delinquent Owners to Pay 2010 Property Taxes

Owners of homes and other real property who have not paid property taxes for tax year 2010 (originally payable in 2011) should pay immediately to avoid having their taxes offered for auction at the Annual Tax Sale which begins August 3, Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas said.

Pappas said owners with unpaid bills for tax year 2010 can go to her office's website, cookcountytreasurer.com, and pay electronically by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, July 27.

The Tax Sale is a four-day auction at which tax buyers bid on unpaid taxes, this year for 2010 bills (mailed in 2011). If the owner does not redeem, the tax buyer can ask a court for title to the property. Owners redeeming taxes from buyers face penalties and interest costs.

Currently, the taxes for some 59,000 properties are delinquent. To alert owners, earlier last month the Treasurer's Office published delinquency lists in newspapers and sent notices by certified mail to the owners.

Pappas noted that owners should make sure they pay any delinquent tax bill first, before paying the newly issued Second Installment bill. "Unsure owners should go to cookcountytreasurer.com and check their payment status," Pappas said.

If they find a delinquency, they can stay on the website and pay electronically, Pappas said.

Bank of America Hires More Than 30 Small Business Bankers in the Greater Chicago Area

Bank of America announced that it has hired more than 30 small business bankers across the greater Chicago area to provide guidance to local small business owners. The additions are part of the company's previously announced plan to hire 1,000 small business bankers nationwide.

"We have heard from small business owners that they want more personalized guidance from their banking relationship," said Jay Miller, the Chicago-based Small Business Banking executive for Bank of America's central region. "Our bankers will be meeting with small business clients across Chicago to understand every aspect of their cash flow needs better, which will enable them to provide small business owners with the products and services most appropriate for their business, when their business needs it."

Findings from the recently released Bank of America Small Business Owner Report, a semi-annual study exploring the concerns, aspirations and perspectives of small business owners across the country, revealed that only 29 percent of Chicago small business owners consider themselves to be very financially savvy. The remaining respondents admitted to needing occasional or ongoing expert help.

Through a relationship with a Bank of America small business banker, clients will have convenient access to local small business expertise and a dedicated resource who knows their business. Small business bankers will consult with small business owners at their place of business and assess their companies' deposit, credit and cash management needs.

According to a 2011 U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) report, there are more than one million small businesses in Illinois. These businesses represent 98.3 percent of all employers, and almost half of the private-sector workforce. Moreover, there are more than 171,000 small businesses in the Chicago area, with 3.6 million Chicago area residents working for businesses with fewer than 500 employees.

Bank of America has continued to actively lend to small businesses across the U.S. and Illinois. In the first half of 2012, Bank of America extended more than $292.1 million to small businesses across the state. This includes $115.2 million in new originations, which has helped enable Bank of America to meet its national small business lending pledge to the White House and the SBA.

Bank of America is also a leading bank supporting Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs), providing more than $200 million to finance small businesses that cannot qualify for traditional loans. The CDFI grant program, created in 2010 to unlock low-cost Federal micro-capital for small businesses, has allowed CDFIs to access more than $102 million, serving over 9,000 local businesses and helping to retain more than 14,000 jobs.

Orland Township hosts free health services on "Wellness Wednesday" on August 22 and September 26

Orland Township is hosting "Wellness Wednesday". Wednesday, August 22, 2012, Wednesday, September 26, 2012 and October 24, 2012. "Wellness Wednesday" is held in the Orland Township Activity Center at 14807 S. Ravinia Avenue, every fourth Wednesday of the month from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

On "Wellness Wednesday", residents can have their blood pressure and blood sugar checked by a registered medical professional.

A basic cholesterol screening is offered for a $5.00 charge and the test requires a 9 to 12 hour fast. Free hearing screenings by Sertoma Speech and Hearing Center are also available on this day with an appointment.

Additional services include biophotonic scanning, provided by T3 Health Check LLC, 9501 W. 171st Street, and hearing screenings by Melissa Welch, Au.D. of Sonus Hearing Care Professionals, 17125 S. Harlem Avenue.

Biophotonic scanning is available for a fee of $20.00. A biophotonic scan can determine the presence of skin carotenoid antioxidants.

"Wellness Wednesday" is a service that is offered to residents of Orland Township in partnership with local medical professionals.

The "Wellness Wednesday" program provides residents with the opportunity to keep oneself healthy and happy through preventive care.

Often times, people take good health for granted and it's not until illness strikes that one realizes how important a healthy and functioning body is. To make a hearing appointment, call Orland Township at (708) 403-4222.

Hometown Military News

Army National Guard Pfc. Eric Mitchell Jr. has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C. During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core values, physical fitness, and received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training, drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courtesy, military justice system, basic first aid, foot marches, and field training exercises.

Mitchell is the son of Sharon Harper of East 131th Street, and grandson of Duane O. Lee of South Rhodes Avenue, both of Chicago. He is a 2008 graduate of Chicago Military Academy at Bronzeville.

Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation launches new community grants program

Eligible Cook County organizations encouraged to apply by Oct. 1.

August 2, 2012, Naperville, Ill. – The Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Delta Dental of Illinois, is launching a new community grants program to provide funding for programs and organizations that improve the oral health of children within the state.

The Foundation will award grants of $1,000 to $10,000 to nonprofit organizations that provide oral health education and/or access to oral health resources to Illinois children. Applications can be submitted online at http://www.deltadentalil.comcommunity_grants_ddilfoundation by Oct. 1.

"Tooth decay is the most common childhood disease in the United States, and in Illinois, more than half of third graders have experienced cavities," said Craig Grannon, chair of the Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation Grants Committee. "The need is great, and the Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation is committed to improving the health of Illinois children. That's why the Foundation, in partnership with Delta Dental of Illinois, is investing nearly $100,000 to further our commitment by supporting nonprofit organizations with programs focused on improving children's oral health across the state."

"We are proud to launch the Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation Community Grants Program, which provides a wonderful opportunity for us to boost our community benefit efforts with an impactful approach toward improving children's oral health in Illinois," said Lora Vitek, director of philanthropy and community relations. "Our grants program augments the Foundation's own oral health educational programs, including 'Land of Smiles,' which visits elementary schools across the state and educates nearly 30,000 Illinois children each year; and 'Dentist by 1,' a statewide public service campaign to educate parents and caregivers about the benefits of taking their children to the dentist by age 1 and educates them on how to care for their children's oral health."

The Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation's community granting efforts launched in 2008. Over the past year, the organization underwent a comprehensive review, including strategically planning its focus and initiatives. The re-launch of the community grants program is one of the first steps resulting from this effort.

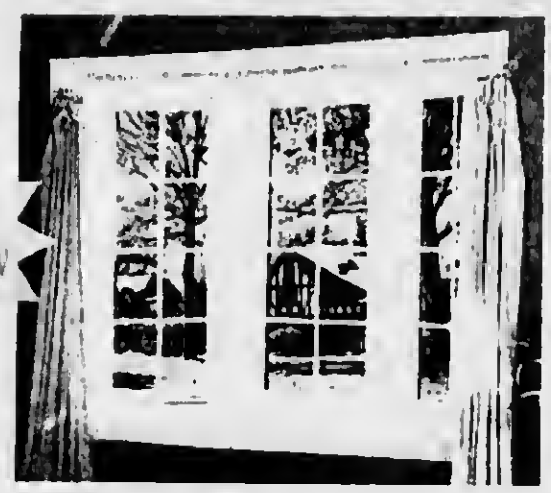
"The Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation Board of Directors is enthusiastic to be investing in oral health in communities throughout Illinois. We plan to annually grow this effort to be able to support more programs and organizations with the goal of impacting more children throughout the state," said Frank Maggio, DDS, chair of the Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation Board of Directors.

Illinois public charities classified as exempt from federal income taxes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and public or governmental entities, such as a public schools or health departments, are encouraged and eligible to apply.

To learn more about the Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation's community grants program or to support the Foundation, please go to http://www.deltadentalil.com/ddilfoundation.

Alert your Community with Back to School Programs, Welcoming Students Back to School, Safely on the Streets, Open House Programs, and Shopping. Our Issue of August 21 is available for Back to School Specials. Call 312-624-8996 for Advertising!

Heat Wave Sale Daze



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City of Oak Forest e-Briefs

Crime Prevention Commission hosts the 16th Annual National Night Out on August 7

Join Mayor Hank Kuspa, the Oak Forest Crime Prevention Commission and fellow residents in maintaining a safe and vibrant community at the 16th Annual National Night Out on Tuesday, August 7 at 6:30 p.m. at the gazebo at City Hall, 15440 S. Central Avenue.

Earn an extra seven votes today only in the Bark for Your Park contest

The 7 Vote Sniff Out is a weekly online scavenger hunt to earn seven extra votes for your favorite finalist. Each Friday visit www.PetSafe.net for your first clue. Follow the clues and complete the one-question quiz at the end of the hunt to earn an extra week's worth of votes! And, don't forget to watch our video while on the site to help us earn extra votes!

Appealing your property taxes? Bremen Township will be open for property tax appeals for the City of Oak Forest from August 20 to September 19. Taxpayer Advocate Guy Gattone and Cook County Board of Review Commissioner Dan Patlak will hold a public meeting about property taxes on September 4 at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.

Sign up now to be a part of the I Am An American Day parade

The city's Veterans Commission will host the I Am An American Day parade on Saturday, September 15 at 11 a.m. on Central Avenue from 151st to 159th Street. You must register by August 30 to be in the parade. Read this Patch article to learn more about the history of the I Am An American Day parade.

Question of the Week

When is the Back-to-School event at the Oak Forest Commons Shopping Center?

The Back-to-School event at the Oak Forest Commons Shopping Center at 159th and Central Avenue is on Saturday, August 18 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. View the flier now!

Supplies needed for children going back to school

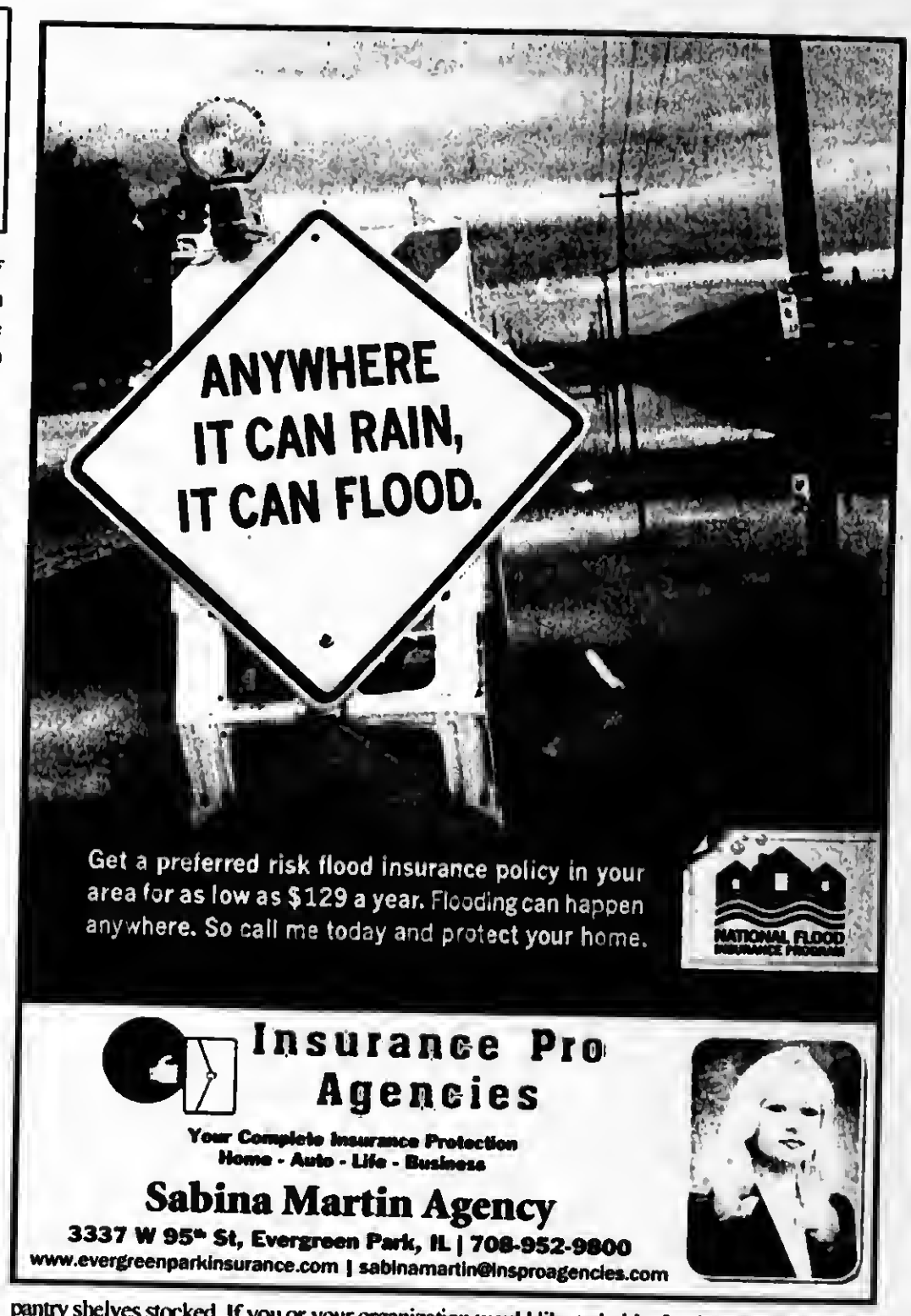
Following is a list of school supplies needed in order for us to distribute basic supplies to over 1200 children this year.

Any donations you make will be greatly appreciated and allow a child to experience a positive start to the school year. Donations may be dropped at our office, or many local stores, organizations where you see the TWC school bus. Supplies are collected all year long.

Thank you for your continued support!

2-pocket folders, spiral notebooks, (wide) plastic rulers, 24 count crayons, notebook paper (wide), #2 pencils, pens (blue, black, red), washable markers, colored pencils, scissors (pointed), soft erasers, glue sticks, pencil boxes, baby wipes, facial tissues, ziploc bags paper towels.

You can deliver to Together We Cope 17010 Oak Park Ave. Tinley Park, IL 60477 708-633-5040 www.togetherwecope.org Our shelves are bare! Summer is a difficult time to keep our pantry shelves stocked. If you or your organization would like to hold a food drive for us, please contact Carol Ettema. Any personal donation you can make will be greatly appreciated as well.



Smith Village to hold free memory support Q&A session for caregivers coping with family members who have dementia

Beverly area families and caregivers of seniors living with Alzheimer's disease or dementia can get together with others who have the same concerns at a free 6:30 p.m. meeting Tuesday, Aug. 7, at Smith Village, 2320 W. 113th Place in Chicago.

The hour-long gathering at the continuing care retirement community will be open to questions and comments from the assembled group. Light refreshments will be served.

Smith Village's memory support coordinator Diane Morgan will lead the meeting. To reserve a seat, please call 773-474-7300. About Smith Village Smith Village, serving seniors and their families since 1924, offers resort-style retirement living with apartments and appealing common areas for residents at all levels of care.

Sponsored by Smith Senior Living, a not-for-profit organization, Smith Village provides spacious residences and engaging programs for independent living, as well as assisted living, memory support and skilled nursing care. Smith Village also provides short-term rehabilitation services for residents and others requiring assistance after surgery or a medical incident.

For more information about Smith Village, call 773-474-7300 or visit online at SmithVillage.org.

ASK and Answered

The Supreme Court Decision on Health Care Reform - Next steps for Illinois Employers

A half day seminar in two locations, taught by Attorney Rebecca Dobbs
Chicago - August 13, 2012
Springfield - August 27, 2012

Smith

Affordable Care Act was upheld as constitutional by the Supreme Court. This decision means that employers will need to meet upcoming compliance obligations and important decisions. This half-day seminar will go through the Supreme Court's opinion and explain what it means, as well as what your next steps need to be in order to be in compliance with the Affordable Care Act.
On the agenda are:
* Summary of Benefits and Coverage - The creation and distribution
* The obligations for W-2 reporting of group health premiums
* New limits for health flexible spending accounts
* The state-based health insurance exchanges * Penalties for employers who fail to provide minimum health insurance coverage
* Audits by the Department of Labor for compliance of health plans with the ACA * Patient-centered research - new fees to be applied to health plans
* And more Registration Information Monday, August 13, 2012 - 12:30 pm - 4:30 pm Illinois Chamber of Commerce Chicago office 300 S. Wacker Drive, 22nd Floor Conference Rm, Chicago, IL 60606 Monday, August 27, 2012 12:30 pm - 4:30 pm Illinois Chamber of Commerce Springfield office 215 E. Adams St., Springfield, IL 62701

Early Bird Price (For members and nonmembers): Register before August 17 for Springfield - $179.00 Member Price after early bird date - $209.00 Non-Member Price after early bird date- $249.00 These seminars have been pre-approved to offer 3.5 HRCI credits

For more information or to register call Pam Holleman, HR Specialist & Publication Sales Representative, (855) 239-6150 or pholleman@ilchamber.org

Lipinski Votes for Middle Class Tax Cut

Congressman Dan Lipinski (IL-3) voted to extend tax cuts for the middle class that would save a typical family of four $2,200 next year.

"With unemployment still at 8.2 percent, middle-class Americans cannot afford a tax hike," Rep. Lipinski said. "Had the House voted with the Senate as I did today to extend tax cuts for households earning less than $250,000, we could have put those American families at ease by ensuring that their income taxes will not go up next year. But instead of settling this issue by passing legislation that can be immediately signed into law, Congress is once again playing political games and kicking the can down the road.

"Had the House passed the Senate legislation, Congress could then have turned its attention to addressing the remaining tax cuts that are set to expire at the end of the year, with the goal of providing additional tax relief while simultaneously dealing with the automatic budget cuts that are scheduled to hit at the same time. Those two issues cannot be considered in isolation. There is bipartisan agreement that we must amend the automatic budget cuts, known as the sequester. These across-the-board spending reductions will cut programs without making any distinctions between those that are essential and those that are a waste of taxpayer dollars. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has also stated that in their current form these cuts raise the risk of an economic contraction the American people can ill-afford. As someone who has repeatedly voted for strong, bipartisan deficit reduction measures, I believe we should fulfill the promise to reduce the deficit we made with the Budget Control Act, without abdicating on our obligation to set priorities.

"The bottom line is this: if we extend all the tax cuts and rescind the sequester cuts without concern for breaking the promise we made to reduce the debt in last year's Budget Control Act, how much longer will investors trust Congress's commitment to debt reduction and continue to lend the U.S. money at low interest rates? Is Congress serious about deficit reduction and America's future, or are we going to continue to be irresponsible until it is too late?

"All one has to do is look to Europe to witness the terrible consequences of failing to balance spending and revenues until it is too late. In order to prevent a similar catastrophe here that does grave damage to the middle class, I helped introduce and was among the 38 bipartisan House members who earlier this year voted for a balanced proposal for $4 trillion in deficit reduction based on the recommendations of the Simpson-Bowles commission. As such, I was among those the nonpartisan Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget thanked 'for being open to compromise and putting the nation's fiscal interest above their party's interest.' In addition, I voted for the bipartisan budget deal that prevented a government shutdown and cut spending in 2011 by $38 billion, opposed a bill that would have increased the debt limit without addressing future deficits, and supported the Budget Control Act to reduce the deficit by at least $2.1 trillion over 10 years.

What we need is a targeted, long-term plan for restoring fiscal discipline that positions our economy for strong, stable growth. I look forward to continuing to lead the effort to develop and pass such a plan."

Cities across the country will compete for $9 million in prizes

"There's been a tremendous response to the Mayors Challenge," said Michael Bloomberg, philanthropist and Mayor of New York City. "As cities face increasingly complex problems with fewer and fewer resources, the need for public sector innovation is greater than ever. The Mayors Challenge provides a chance for mayors to put forward bold new ideas that improve their communities, and then spread nationally."

Participating mayors must submit their ideas by September 14, 2012, for a chance to win a grand prize of $5 million or one of four $1 million prizes. The idea must solve a major social or economic issue, improve the customer service experience for citizens or businesses, enhance accountability, transparency, and public engagement, and/or increase government efficiency.

Winners will be selected based on their idea's vision and novelty, potential for impact, potential for replication in other cities, and the quality of the implementation plans. A selection committee, cochaired by Shona Brown, Senior Vice President and head of Google. Org, and Ron Daniel, Bloomberg Philanthropies board member and Former Managing Partner at McKinsey & Company where he is still active, will help Bloomberg Philanthropies select the winning cities. U.S. cities with 30,000 residents or more were invited to participate.

The Mayors Challenge is the latest initiative of Bloomberg Philanthropies' Mayors Project, which aims to spread proven and promising ideas among cities. Other Mayors Project investments include Cities of Service, Innovation Delivery Teams, and Financial Empowerment Centers. To view the full list of participating cities, visit bloomberg.org/mayorschallenge/gameon. To share the infographic, use bloomberg.org/mayorschallenge/gameoninfographic.

To learn more about the Mayors Challenge, visit bloomberg.org/mayorschallenge.

About Bloomberg Philanthropies Bloomberg Philanthropies works primarily to advance five areas globally: the Arts, Education, the Environment, Government Innovation, which includes the Mayors Challenge, and Public Health. In 2011, $330 million was distributed. For more information please go to www.bloombergdotorg.tumblr.com/about.

BIC Nationwide Back-To-School Sweepstakes to Award One Lucky School $4,500

Partnership with Adopt-A-Classroom for Donation of School Supplies to Children in Need

BIC, the world renowned manufacturer of writing instruments and correction products, has recently announced the launch of a nationwide back-to-school sweepstakes, inviting consumers to select their schools for the chance to be awarded $4,500 in funding for needed school supplies. The sweepstakes is an opportunity to help promote awareness about the great need that many schools have for these valuable resources.

In addition to the launch of the sweepstakes, BIC is teaming up with Adopt-A-Classroom to donate backpacks filled with BIC products to schools in ten cities across the country, so children in need are properly prepared to have a successful school year.

"We are so excited about the back-to-school sweepstakes," said Rachel Dalton, senior brand manager -Stationery, BIC USA Inc. "Our vision is to maximize the learning experience for students, and by providing one school with valuable funding, we can help bring about positive changes while enhancing national awareness regarding the needs of many of our students and teachers."

"In our daily interaction with schools across the nation, we at Adopt-A-Classroom are immersed in the challenges tackled by educators as they struggle to provide learning materials for their students," said Jamie Rosenberg, founder of Adopt-A-Classroom. "The ultimate goal of our organization is to enhance student success through teacher empowerment, and by serving as a partner in BIC's back-to-school endeavors, we firmly believe that a real difference can be made."

Sweepstakes submissions are open to U.S. residents ages 18 and over. Entrants must simply visit BIC's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/bicpenpals and complete a registration form including the name of their school. The deadline for entering the sweepstakes is September 18, 2012 at 10:00 AM EST. For more information about the BIC nationwide back-to-school sweepstakes, please visit https://www.facebook.com/#!/bicpenpals. Also, to find out more about Adopt-A-Classroom, please visit http://www.adoptaclassroom.org/.

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Oak Forest takes $25,000 prize in PetSafe's Bark for Your Park contest

After three months of intense competition, the City of Oak Forest is pleased to announce that it has won $25,000 as part of the Bark for Your Park contest sponsored by PetSafe, the world's leading developer of feeding, fencing, and behavior training solutions for dogs and cats. Oak Forest finished second in the competition with 123,417 votes, behind Texarkana, AR, which brought in 167,373 votes and earned $100,000 as the top finisher.

"I am thrilled to accept this prize from PetSafe, a fine company dedicated to improving the health, safety and welfare of domestic animals through out the world," said Oak Forest Mayor Hank Kuspa. "These funds will be used to develop and operate a dog park to be enjoyed by Oak Forest and neighboring communities."

The contest pitted Oak Forest against hundreds of communities nationwide – all vying for the chance to build a dream park for their canine companions. The final 15 communities, including neighboring Orland Park, battled for weeks, but Oak Forest was able to secure second place through the extraordinary efforts of a great many residents intent upon providing a dog park for Oak Forest.

"I am humbled by the outpouring of support from the entire community," said 1st Ward Alderman and Bark for A Park Committee Chair Laura Clemons. "Our volunteers worked tirelessly throughout the summer to spread the word and garner voters; our business owners.

Bark for Your Park results, supported us every step of the way: and our residents, neighbors and friends voted for Oak Forest every day. This is teamwork at its finest."

Mayor Kuspa echoed Alderman Clemons sentiments: "Oak Forest is a community of volunteers; people helping people to improve their community. I am grateful to each of them for their extraordinary effort and so very proud to know they are my neighbors."

One such volunteer, resident Ken Barry summed it up best: "We never give up in Oak Forest; that's what makes us such a great community. I want to thank PetSafe for the challenge. When the chips are down, there is no place like Oak Forest; its spirit, its community involvement and its people make this a great place to live and work."

The $25,000 prize will be added to the approximately $11,000 the Bark for a Park Committee has already collected through various fundraisers, including a dog wash, pasta dinner and wine tasting.

The Bark for a Park Committee has been working closely with the Forest Preserve District of Cook County to identify a location for a dog park in Oak Forest.

Jazz Fans, August Is Your Time

Each Thursday night through August 30 (no concert on August 9) at Millennium Park's Jay Pritzker Pavilion is Made in Chicago: World Class Jazz with performances from Makaya McCraven, Matt Ulery and Frank Rosaly, culminating in a tribute to Ella Fitzgerald which also opens the 34th Chicago Jazz Festival.

This year, the festival presents Neighborhood Nights which are bringing jazz programming to a neighborhood near you and it continues in August at Szold Hall in the Old Town School of Folk Music and the National Museum of Mexican Art.

For complete listing of the Chicago Jazz Festival and Neighborhood Nights, click here. And remember the festival is August 30-Sept 2 and in addition to Millennium Park where you can see Roy Haynes on Friday night, the festival is at the Chicago Cultural Center, Roosevelt University and Grant Park where you can enjoy Artist in Residence, Ken Vandermark and headliners Dianne Reeves and Allen Toussaint.

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Pictured: Chaplain Linda Gray, Wayne Gray, Susan Engemann, and Audra Gray.

Grant awarded by the Wayne R. Gray Educational Grant Committee

The Wayne R. Gray Educational Grant Committee has selected the recipient for the 2012- 2013 school year. The Grant was established honoring Mr. Gray for his years of service to the Indian Programs by the YMCA Network (formerly Southwest YMCA) Council of Chiefs.

This year, Susan Engemann who resides in Chicago, will be attending Purdue University to pursue studies in the field of nursing. Susan was chosen as the recipient for her scholastic achievements, service to the YMCA, and volunteer work in various community activities.

A Committee was established to develop the criteria for the Grant, administer and evaluate the applications from qualified members of the Y Adventure Guides (formerly Y Indian Guides). Members of the Committee are Wayne Gray; Lynn Gray, Community Chaplain and former Children's Pastor; and Audra Gray, Adjunct Professor at Trinity Christian College.

The Grant is available to all members of the YMCA Network Y Adventure Guides, past and current, who wish to pursue studies at institutions of higher education and can fulfill the established criteria.

Members of the Programs who have received the Grant are: Audra Gray, Oak Lawn, 1988; Pamela Tomczak, Burbank, 1989; Andrea Ber, Palos Hills, 1990; Christine Gibbs and Jason Gray, both of Oak Lawn, 1991; Christine McAley, Alsip and Joseph Cwiklinski, Oak Lawn, 1992; Cheryl Baillie, Orland Park, 1993; Danielle Damon, Oak Lawn, 1994; Daniel Gibbs, Oak Lawn, 1995; Susan McAley, Alsip, 1996; Timothy Benck, Worth, 1997, Jeanine Dyckman, Oak Lawn, 1998; Kelli Ann McNamara, Crete, 1999; Brandon Voight, Alsip, 2000; Sara Baillie, Orland Park, 2001; Tahnee Spatafore, Oak Lawn, 2002; Rhiannon Falzone, Evergreen Park, 2003; David J. Hardy, Orland Park, 2004; Sean O'Connor, Palos Heights, 2005; Kathleen Coverick, Palos Park, 2006; Laurie Hrad, Chicago, 2007 and Jennifer Ellison, Palos Heights, 2008; Steven Taddei, Burbank along with Martin Kezon, Chicago, 2009.Trevor Nykaza, Oak Lawn, 2010 and Vincent Castro, Oak Lawn, 2011

The Palos Village Players will hold open auditions for their November Production

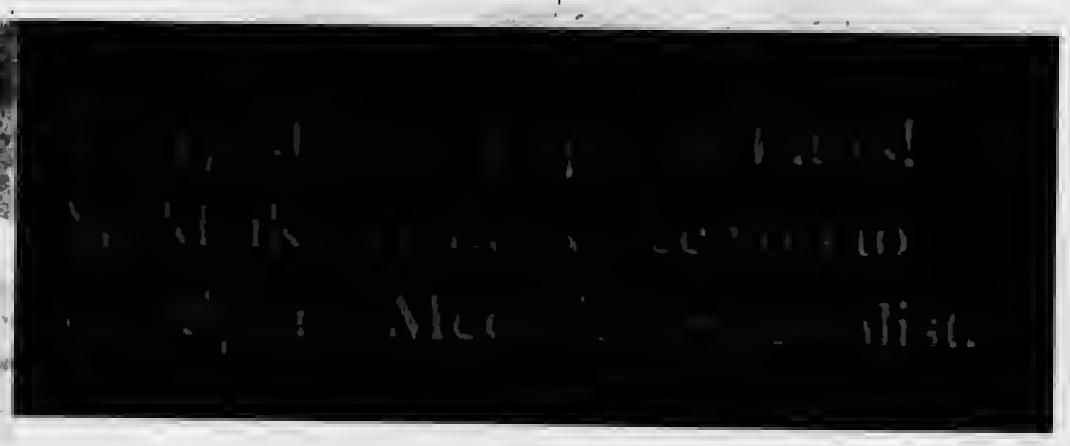
George Batson's comedy/whodunit REHEARSAL FOR DEATH at 7:00 PM on August 12 and 14 at All Saints Lutheran Church, 13350 S. LaGrange Road in Orland Park. (Please enter from the rear parking lot.)

There is a cast of 5 men and 5 women (ranging in age from 20-65) and one teenaged boy. As the play begins, the "Rough Rapids Drama Group" is rehearsing a play starring the "has been" actress Stella Carlisle. Suddenly a letter arrives, threatening dire consequences for the group if the play continues.

The cast, which also includes the local gossip columnist, a theater owner and respected business man, the ingénue and her fiancé, the town busy body, a smart-aleck teen and the stalwart director of the show, carry on despite the ominous threat.

The play is directed by Mike Gandy of Mokena and will be performed November 9-17 at the Palos Park Recreation Center, 8901 W.123rd St in Palos Park. For further information go online to www.pvp.org.

Advertising in Village View Newspaper will reach people outside of your community each issue date. WHY! BECAUSE IT IS A FREE PAPER REACHING 25,000 NEW PEOPLE IN 18 SUBURBS!



We are proud to introduce you to Sujal Desai D.O., an Orthopaedic Surgeon on staff at Little Company of Mary Hospital. He specializes in diagnosing and treating sports injuries. Dr. Desai received his medical degree from the Midwestern University/Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine. Dr. Desai also completed a Sports and Arthroscopic Surgery fellowship at the Los Angeles Orthopaedic Institute. Dr. Desai is accepting new patients at 2850 West 95th Street, Evergreen Park, IL or 6700 West 95th Street, Oak Lawn, IL.
To schedule an appointment, please call 708.499.4844.

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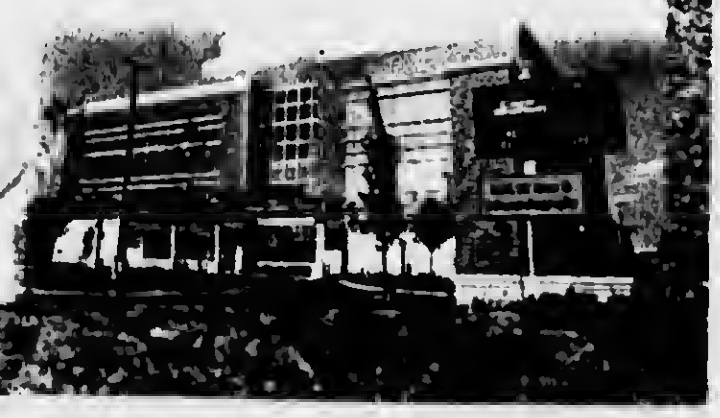
Dr. Desai will soon see patients at the new Outpatient Care Center in Oak Lawn, IL.



Fall 2012 Registration Dates for the Tinley Park-Park District

The Fall 2012 Tinley Park-Park District's programming brochure was released last week, and registration for classes, leagues and programs is right around the corner.

Registration for residents of the Tinley Park-Park District begins with a random draw processing on Tuesday, August 7. All registration forms must be turned in to the Tony Bettenhausen Recreation Center by Saturday, August 4 in order to be processed in the random draw. Resident registration forms received after August 4 will be processed on a first come, first served basis after August 7. Resident online registration also begins on August 7 at 9 a.m. Resident in-person registration begins Tuesday, August 14 at 9:00 a.m.

Nonresident registration mail-in/drop-off registration will be randomly processed on Tuesday, August 21. Online registration for nonresidents also begins August 21 at 9:00 a.m. Nonresident in-person registration begins Wednesday, August 22 at 9:00 a.m.

Copies of the park district's Fall 2012 brochure can be picked up at the Tony Bettenhausen Recreation Center. A copy is also mailed to every household in the Tinley Park-Park District's boundaries.

The Tinley Park-Park District highly recommends that those interested in taking a class, playing in a league or attending a program should register early to ensure the program runs as scheduled. Registration deadline for all classes in the program is one week prior to the start of the class unless otherwise noted.

Oak Lawn Park District celebrates Upcoming Park District Activities

Grand opening of Centennial Pool's Splash Pad

Friday Night Movies, Bring out your family, friends, and co-workers to enjoy a relaxing movie.

All movies begin at dusk at the Village Green located at 95th & 52nd Ave. This event is FREE and held in conjunction with the Village of Oak Lawn.

Check out the upcoming dates and movies: Captain America August 24th.

A Dolphin's Tale Sunday Night Concerts Need a night packed with music and fun? Sunday night concerts are all that and more.

All concerts are held at the Village Green located at 95th & 52nd Ave. This event is FREE and held in conjunction with the Village of Oak Lawn. The Crawpuppies August 19th, CTA Chicago Tribute Anthology (A fireworks show will also be included)

Discover Oak Lawn's History in New Book

Kevin Korst is the local history coordinator for the Oak Lawn Public Library and immediately took interest in the Oak Lawn history and wrote a book.

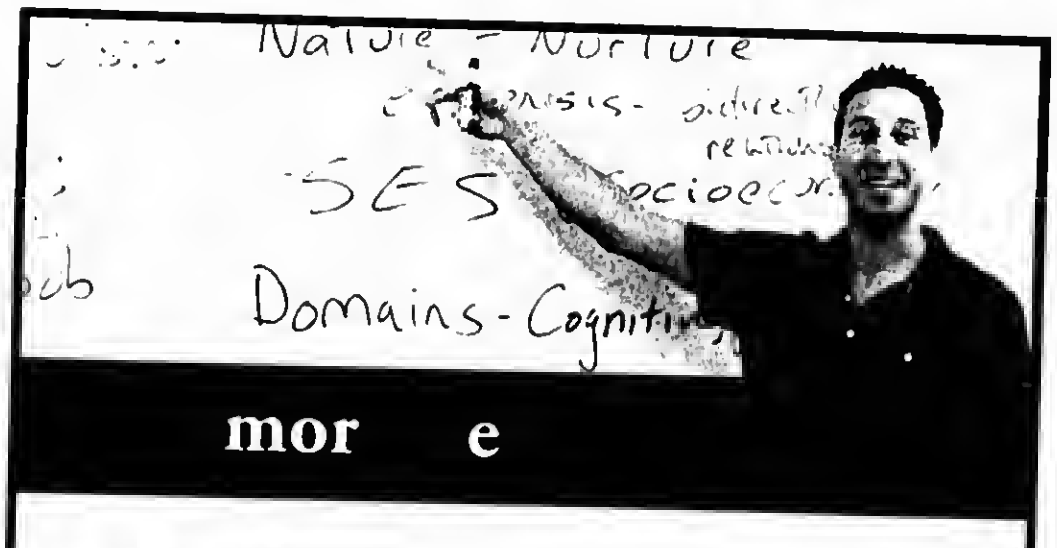
Kevin has captured the history of Oak Lawn by establishing a pictorial of Oak Lawn from its first settlers in the 1840's. The book is not only interesting but it tells the story I surely understand.

The book features over 200 images from the Oak Lawn Public Library of its history collections, many of which have not been previously published.

Pictures are from all of the decades and the chapters are equally distributed with photos.

Arcadia Publishing has a series titled Images of America and the title of this book is Oak Lawn. This book is available at area bookstores, independent retailers and online retailers, or through Arcadia Publishing at 888-313-2665 or online. The proceeds from this book will be donated to the Oak Lawn Community Library Foundation.

August 21 Issue will focus on Back to School stories and Businesses within the Community! Call Linda at 312-624-8996 for advertising.



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"Mowimy po polsku!"

Steppenwolf performances of Three Sisters are six days per week

by Annette Dixon

Anton Chekhov's classic Three Sisters is the work of award winner ensemble Tracy Letts and director, Anna D. Shapiro. Regardless whether we are hearing a Russian translation at Steppenwolf Theatre, or a hip hop translation, somehow the theatre productions become quite entertaining and professionally performed by the theatre company.

Tracy Letts adapted Chekhov Three Sisters and brought to us what would have been a long boring play to a most delightful entertaining performance even for a neophyte.

With a cast of 24 actors if was never confusing to know who's who on the stage, and it was also quite educational to understand Chekhov..

August 26th, is the last day to see this outstanding production. Tickets are available for $20 through $75 at 1650 North Halsted Street, 312-335-1650 or steppenwolf.org or Hot Tix is also a good place to contact for tickets.

A biography by playwright KJ Sanchez

by Annette Dixon

Teatro Vista is Chicago's premier Equity Latino ensemble theater company. The company produces new works by new playwrights. In conjunction with Collaboraction, which celebrates 16 years as a Chicago based art organization moved its theatre and headquarters to historic Flat Iron Arts Building at 1579 North Milwaukee Avenue in the heart of Wicker Park.

Recently, I had the privilege of seeing an outstanding performance by writer, actor KJ Sanchez who I have never met, but we had something in common. KJ spoke of her ancestors who were located on 147 acres in New Mexico called Tome.

Going back to 500 AD, they were Spanish, Incas, Jewish, but still Karen's ancestors are Americans. They spent all their lives on the same land, but in 1967 sold a land grant to Horizon Corporation in which Horizon developed Rio Del Oro into lots which no longer was named Tome. Many years of law suits they finally received payment of $625 for stock in the land. This story was about a mother who want this story told about what was in the show box. Documents from all the law sutis and the land grant given to the people of Tome.

. Unbeknownst to me what this was about and sitting through the explanation of how Horizon stoled this land of Tome from the people and the battlement for 15 years. I own three acres of this property, purchased from Horizon Corporation near the Manzano Mountains near barren land that I love and could have sold for more developed land outside of Rio del Oro. What a story! It will tear at your heart, for Karen as her family called her in New Mexico, tells the story with humor and sadness. She is precise with her speech and the timing of visuals and narration. Her director, Lisa Portes did a great job bringing the author, actor, KJ Sanchez together and give the audience a great true story of Highway 47, New Mexico 17 miles, south of Belen and 32 miles south of Alburqurqe, New Mexico.

Another short piece In paraGraciela written and performed by Sandra Delgado was quite good, also. It's about coming to peace with a deceived father.

Delgado, a Colombian-American performer creator, director and producer born and raised in Chicago, is a TCG Fox Foundation Fellow in residency at the Goodman Theater where she is developing her latest collaborative generated piece, para mis Madres, parGraciela is the first part of this three act play. Cheryl Lynn Bruce directs. You can still see program B, Saturday, August 11th 8:00 pm. Tickets are $15 for adults, students $10.

There is also an Art Gallery at this location of the Flat Iron Building, 1579 North Milwaukee Ave., 3rd floor, also great restaurants nearby yosolofestival.com or call 312-226-9633.

Village of Orland Park to Host Free Country Western Concert Sept 2

Hillbilly Rockstarz to Perform at Centennial Park West

Chicagoland's premier Top 40 country band, the Hillbilly Rockstarz, will perform at the Village of Orland Park's Centennial Park West on Sunday, September 2 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Located in the Collette Highlands Subdivision, Centennial Park West is at Park Station Boulevard and Somer Glen Lane, near 159th Street and 108th Avenue. Free parking is available in the adjacent Metra parking lot.

"We've had a great response to the free concerts that the village has hosted at Centennial Park West," said Orland Park Mayor Dan McLaughlin, one of the sponsors of the concert. "The City Lights Orchestra performed during our July 4th festivities both this year and last and we're looking forward to hosting a country and western concert during the Labor Day Weekend," the mayor said.

Hillbilly Rockstarz was named Chicagoland's premier top 40 country band by the country radio station US 99.5. The band has been entertaining fans in the Midwest for years with musical selections that range from contemporary hits to older classics and rock tunes. Their Orland Park debut will include hits by Little Big Town, Miranda Lambert, Jason Aldean, Luke Bryan, Kenny Chesney, Sara Evans, Billy Currington, Carrie Underwood, Lady Antebellum, Big & Rich, Taylor Swift, Keith Urban and Gretchen Wilson.

"We invite everyone to bring their picnics, blankets, lawn chairs and snacks to Centennial Park West," said Trustee Pat Gira, chair of the village's Recreation and Parks Committee. "It promises to be a great evening of outstanding country music," she said. Cooper's Hawk Winery and Restaurant will have bevernges available for purchase at the concert.

Along with Mayor McLaughlin, this Village of Orland Park event is also sponsored by the Aileen S. Andrew Foundation, Cooper's Hawk Winery and Restaurant and the Orland Park Prairie Newspaper.

For more information, call the Village of Orland Park Recreation Department at 708/403-PARK.

Unspeakable

The life of Comedic Icon Richard Pryor

This fall, Chicagoans will get the chance to experience the New York International Fringe Festival hit production, Unspeakable, a dramatic fantasia inspired by the life of comedic icon Richard Pryor, on the Royal George Theatre Main Stage, 1641 N. Halsted, in a limited eight-week engagement beginning Tuesday, October 2, 2012. Unspeakable is an unflinching look at the life and times of an iconic comedic genius. Covering a span of sixty one years, and focused on the period between 1967 and 1982, audience members travel through the emotional landscape that is Richard Pryor. Growing up in a Peoria brothel, where his mother toiled as a prostitute that his grandmother owned and operated, Pryor faced situations that forever shaped and scarred his sensitive soul. Coping with the reality of being born to a prostitute, his imagination allows him to escape and ultimately leads him to comedy. From his rise to super stardom in the shadow of Bill Cosby to his blazingly self-destructive love affair with cocaine and women, Unspeakable captures the duality of his success with the number of internal and emotional demons he battled throughout his life. At the center of Unspeakable is the humanity that connects us all through our vulnerability, intimacy and truth.

The cast of seven, many taking on multiple roles, features television and film star Isaiah Washington making his Chicago stage debut in the role of "Moody," and James Murray Jackson, Jr. as "Richard Pryor," a role he originated at the 2005 New York International Fringe Festival that earned him a New York Times rave for his "magnetic lead performance." Additional casting will be announced shortly.

Unspeakable is directed by Rod Gailes OBC, based on a script by Gailes and Jackson, Jr. Given the strong language and adult situations inherent in this story, this production is recommended for theatergoers 16 years of age and older.

"Richard Pryor broke down barriers and stereotypes once thought unimaginable, said the unspeakable and did the unthinkable. He taught us by holding a mirror to the conscience of America, while self-destructing, and imploding on his own pain and grief. Though flawed in life, he lived uninhibited onstage. He was part preacher, social commentator, political activist, addict and a whole lot of devil. Richard ushered in a groundbreaking style which paved the way for a generation of comedians. He was able to convert his painful personal experiences and searing political observations into mainstream comedy," said Gailes.

Whether in his professional life as an actor and producer or his personal role as a husband, father and activist, Isaiah Washington passionately commits himself to all ventures. As an actor, critics have lauded Isaiah's ability to effortlessly disappear into each role.

For his portrayal of Richard Pryor in the 2005 New York International Fringe Festival production of Unspeakable, James Jackson, Jr. received the Festival's Outstanding Lead Actor Award. The New York-based actor/writer/producer found mentors early on in acting gurus Nathan George and Susan Batson, who etched into his mind the responsibility the artist has to himself as well as to his community.

Unspeakable will be performed on the Royal George Theatre Main Stage in a limited engagement from October 2 through November 25, 2012. The performance schedule is: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 7:30 pm : Fridays at 8 pm ; Saturdays at 5 and 8 pm ; and Sundays at 3 and 7 pm.

Tickets, which range in price from $49.50-$62.50, go on sale August 17 via the Royal George Theatre Box Office, 1641 N. Halsted Street, by calling 312-988-9000, or online at Ticketmaster.com. There is a $5 discount for seniors. For more information on Unspeakable on the Royal George Theatre Main Stage, please call 312-988-9000.

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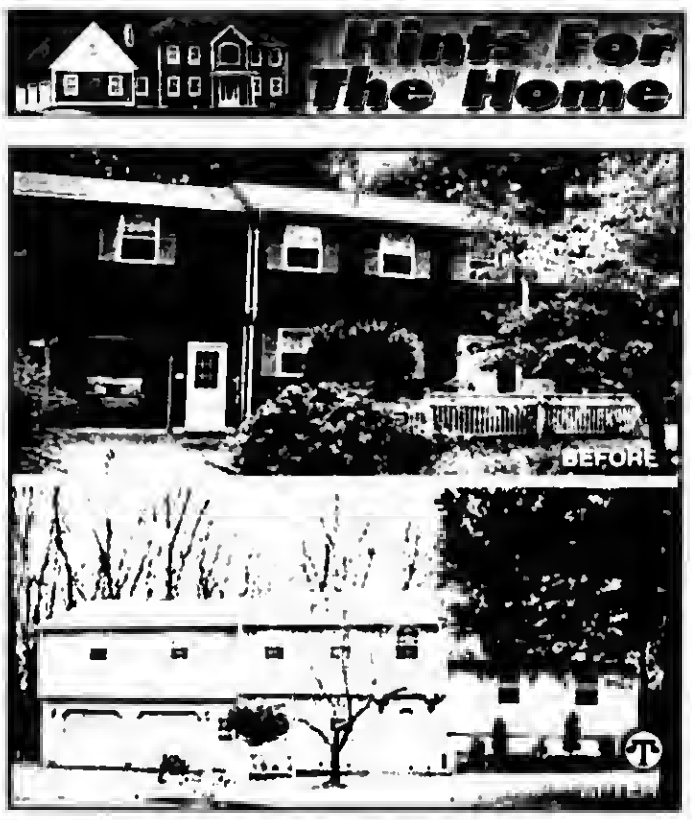

Besides improving the way it looks, such exterior insulation makes a home more energy effieient.

Improving A Home's Value And Curb Appeal

(NAPSA)-Selling a house in today's market can be a challenge. The solution may be to think outside the box-or, in this case, outside the structure.

In the past, a little paint and some minor renovations might have done the trick, but with so many homes for sale, homeowners are finding interesting new ways to boost curb appeal and buyer interest.

While steps such as cleaning up and investing in some landscapes can still deliver results, more homeowners are attracting buyer interest with a system of exterior insulation known as "Outsulation(r)."

Exterior insulation has been shown to lower energy bills and raise buyer interest. Susan Malone of Warwick, Rhode Island, used Outsulation by Dryvit to replace the drab clapboard on her home with a new stone-like exterior complete with architectural flourishes and decorative window accents. The make-over raised her appraisal value and attracted new buyers.

"The transformation of my home has been nothing short of amazing-both from the standpoint of how much more beautiful it is and the effect the renovation had on increasing the value of my home. I have been able to save so much money on my energy bills," said Malone. She used Outsulation by Dryvit, which lets you create an entirely new image. It can be adhesively or mechanically fastened over a building code-approved water-resistive barrier to plywood or OSB substrate.

The system offers the look of any traditional finish, including brick, limestone, stucco and stone, plus three-dimensional details like arches, window borders, decorative columns and dramatic doorways.

Besides improving the way it looks, such exterior insulation makes a home more energy efficient. It reduced air leakage in Malone's home by 19 percent-the equivalent of closing up a hole in the wall that would be the size of a soccer ball, or of leaving your front door open for 25 minutes every day.

The Outsulation system reduced Malone's energy bills by 35 percent and helped dampen noise.

"My dogs used to wake me up barking at just about any noise they would hear, including the airplanes constantly coming and going over the house," said Malone, who lives in a fly zone. "But since the renovation, the dogs don't hear all the sounds they used to, so we are all getting a lot more sleep."

For more information, call (800) 556-7752; in Canada, call (800) 263-3308; or visit www.dryvithomes.com.

Employers needed for Moraine Valley Fall Job and Internship Fair

Employers from all industries who have position openings are needed for Moraine Valley Community College's Fall Job and Internship Fair on Thursday, September 27, from 2 to 5 p.m. The fair will be in the Moraine Business and Conference Center, Building M, on campus, 9000 W. College Pkwy., Palos Hills. Employer check-in is at noon, and the employer luncheon is at 12:30 p.m.

The Fall Job and Internship Fair is a prime opportunity for employers to recruit students, graduates and community members to fulfill employment needs, including hourly or salary jobs and paid or non-paid internships. Commission-only positions and undisclosed third-party recruiting will not be included.

The registration fee is $100 for a six-foot table and lunch for two recruiters. Registration forms can be downloaded from the college's website at morainevalley.edu/jre. Space is limited.

For more information about the fair or other events, call the Job Resource Center at (708) 974-5313, or visit the website.

Did You Know?

(NAPSA)—Fifth Third Bank's DUO Card is the first to combine the benefits and features of both a credit card and a debit card. For information, visit www.my53 card.com/DUO or a Fifth Third Banking Center or call 1-877-579-5353.

"It's never too late for tax planning," advises TaxACT spokesperson Jessi Dolmage. For tax planning information, visit www. irs.gov and www.taxact.com/taxinfo. Do your federal return free and get free tax help at tax act.com. TaxACT guarantees your maximum refund and accuracy.

An institution that has been producing and circulating audio-books and braille books for 80 years also has the world's largest collection of braille music scores. To learn more about the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS), visit www.loc.gov/nls.

Obituary

Kaufhold, Julia (nee Hardy), age 95. Beloved wife of the late Valentine; Loving mother of Linda Steiner and Keith (Peg) Kaufhold; Cherished grandmother of Keith, Ashley Kaufhold and Kristen (Jim) Wooten; Proud great-grandmother of Hunter; Dear sister of Katherine preceded by Mike, Mary, Anna, Helen John, and Steve. Aunt to many and a friend to all. Funeral: Friday August 3, 2012 from Chapel Hill Gardens South Funeral Home 11333 S. Central Ave. Oak Lawn, IL Chapel prayers - 9am to St. Elizabeth Seaton Church 9300 167th St. Tinley Park, IL 60477 Mass-10am. Visitation: Thursday 4pm-9pm. Interment: Chapel Hill Gardens South Cemetery. Visit www.chapelhillgardenssouth.com or call 708-636-1200

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Eye Health

Ongoing exposure to UV radiation can cause serious harm to the eyes and age them prematurely. It can also lead to cata__racts and other conditions.

Too Much Sun Can Be Dangerous For Eyes

(NAPSA)-While many people are concerned about effects of the sun on their skin, experts say they shouldn't lose sight of what the sun can do to their eyes.

If the eyes are exposed to excessive amounts of UV radiation over a short period of time, a "sunburn" called photokeratitis can occur.

This condition may be painful and includes symptoms such as red eyes, a foreign-body sensation or gritty feeling in the eyes, extreme sensitivity to light, and excessive tearing. Photokeratitis is usually temporary and rarely causes permanent damage.

Premature Aging and More

Ongoing exposure to UV radiation, however, can cause serious harm to the eyes and age them prematurely. Research has shown that exposure to small amounts of UV radiation over time increases the chance of developing catar_acts, macular degeneration-the leading cause of blindness in adults-and eye cancer. Long-term exposure may also cause damage to the retina, a nerve-rich lining of the eye that is used for seeing.

Steps You Can Take

Whether it's cloudy or sunny, summer or winter, the American Optometric Association (AOA) urges Americans to take measures to protect their eyes from the sun's ultraviolet rays in order to decrease the risk of eye diseases and disorders.

A good rule of thumb to follow is to wear sunglasses or contact lenses that offer appropriate UV protection, apply UV-blocking sunscreen around the eye area and wear a hat to help protect the eyes and prevent premature aging.

To provide adequate protection for the eyes, the AOA recommends sunglasses and protective contact lenses that:

• Block out 99 to 100 percent of both UV-A and UV-B radiation

• Screen out 75 to 90 percent of visible light

• Are perfectly matched in color, free of distortion and imperfection and have lenses that are gray for proper color recognition.

The AOA also urges parents to remember to protect infants' and children's eyes from the sun at all times.

Regular Exams Are Key

A good way to monitor eye health, maintain good vision and keep up-to-date on the latest in UV protection is by scheduling yearly comprehensive eye exams with an eye doctor.

To find an optometrist or for additional information on UV protection, visit www.AOA.org.

Car Facts

Shopping Used Cars On The Go

(NAPSA)-Using your phone while driving is dangerous but using your phone before you drive can help put you on the road to success the next time you consider getting a used car.

That's because mobile apps can help you shop used cars on the go-anytime, anywhere. You can:

1. Compare vehicles by searching local listings with apps from Autotrader.com and Cars.com.

2. Get a quote on insurance. With apps such as those from eSurance.com, you can get a quote as soon as you find the right car.

3. Check history and get important vehicle history information, so you can know more about the used car before you buy it. All you have to do is enter the license plate or scan the VIN when you have the Carfax app.

A Carfax Report can reveal:

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The Carfax and other mobile apps are available for iPhones, iPads and Android devices.

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Further facts and tips on used car buying are available at www.carfax.com.

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SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 39 | Number 4 | August 21, 2012

Burbank, Evergreen Park, Hickory Hills, Justice, Oak Lawn

Hickory Hills Park District music students garnished trophies

Students from Hickory Hills Park District guitar program participated in the 51st Annual Illinois Music Associations competition at Daley College on May 20, 2012. Five students earned trophies in solo and or duet categories. They are Kamil Skibinski (1st Place solo), Peter Skibinski- (1st Palce solo), Patrick Tomaszek (2nd Place solo), Larissa Trupes (1st Place solo & 1st Place duet) & Ryan Skiora (1st Place duet).

There's a Monitor in the Justice Village Hall

by Jan Glaz

During the public safety report at the Village of Justice President and Board of Trustees Meeting August 13th Trustee Melanie Kuban updated news on the workings of the Red-Light Camera in the village. She informed everyone that the cameras should be up and running within the next two weeks. Mayor Kris Wasowicz reminded Trustee Kuban, "And the hallway..." Kuban replied, "That monitor, in the hallway, if you do get a red light ticket, you'll be able to come here and watch the video and determine whether or not you're going to fight that ticket or accept it as it is."

One Step Forward: The village board took one step forward in their efforts to shut off the water of residents who are delinquent on their water bills when they agreed to pass an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Justice-Willow Springs Water Commission and the Village of Justice in substantial form, subject review and minor revisions by the attorneys for the Commission and/or the Village. Regarding Video Gambling in Justice an ordinance amendment to delete the $750 fee for amusement machine or game of chance for amusement machine, per machine, and add a $150 fee to the party who is acquiring a license to install a gaming machine, plus a $100 fee permit and a $25.00 per machine fee, passed without objections.

Village Clerk Svoboda announced that there's an increase in the cases of West Nile virus and listed various precautions to be taken by the public: Eliminate unnecessary water in holding containers; keep water clean in baby pools and drain them when not in use; keep ditches and strains joining your property free of grass clippings, garbage and other debris which obstruct the natural flow of water; keep weeds and grass cut short and report vacant lots that are not maintained properly.

The chair entertained a motion to adjourn after the city council approved a motion introduced by Trustee Ed Rusch Jr. for a business license for Soup, Sandwiches and More at 8025 W. 79th Street in Justice. Rusch also commented that new businesses are starting to realize that the village of Justice has a lot to offer when it comes to working with businesses and business spaces. "When one leaves there for whatever reason there are others waiting in the wings to fill that space

Oak Lawn Senior Center announces monthly Box Lunch Day

Thursday, August 30th is Box Lunch Day. The sponsor for the lunch is Lutheran Social Services of Illinois located at 3260 West 98 Street in Evergreen Park.

They provide nonmedical home maker support to seniors. Serviees include house cleaning, food preparation, shopping, laundry,companionship, medieation reminders and taking seniors to appointments.

It is their goal to allow the senior to remain safely in their home close to family, friends, shopping and churches. The presentation begins at 10:30 a.m. followed by lunch and bingo. Tickets may be purchased at the Oak Lawn Senior Center, 5330 West 95 Street for $4.00. Seating is limited.

Back to School Sales! Advertise in Color to get more attention to your AD. 4 Free Newspapers and On Line, for the same rate. Call Linda 312-624-8996.

Cub Scouts assist Hickory Hills Police in Crime Prevention Awareness

by Jan Glaz

Mayor Howley opened the Hiekory Hills City Council Meeting on August 9th and announced that thank you letters would be sent out to the Cub Scouts for assisting with distribution of the police chief's material regarding residential robberies. The scouts also provided crime prevention information via reverse 911 ealls and asked residents to provide the city with their cell numbers, in case of emergency. The Mayor added that the city conducted an assessment of the 911 system and that there were 4,820 calls that went out over a two day period and the suceess rate proved the system is working well.

The city council without objection adopted the most recent version of the 2012 International Property Maintenance Code, which is necessary every three years and a Publie Works Collective Bargaining Agreement, after Alderman Szeszycki voiced that he disagreed with a couple of the changes: one the number of work weekends had decreased to fifteen from twenty, and the length of the contract increased to four years, he would've preferred three.

It was reported that on September 8-9 the Park District is asking all to join in the 2nd annual Fall Family Campout at Kasey Meadow Park. Music, games, face painter, and a campfire under the stars. Grilling will not be allowed. Check in 3:00 pm (Sept. 8) Check out (10:00 am (Sept. 9) for details check the city of Hickory Hills website park district tab - Special Events.

Missing Wendy's? Before the meeting adjourned, Mayor Mike Howley announced that he spoke to the Wendy's representative and the openlng tentatively scheduled for Friday morning August 31st may be delayed. Residents can call city hall for further information as to when the Grand Opening Event will take place.

Mark your calendar for St. Bernadette's Annual Rib Fest

Make your plans for St. Bernadette's Rib Fest in Evergreen Park, Illinois. For the past 18 years, St. Bernadette parishioners have prepared and cooked the best ribs in town. The fest will take place at St. Bernadette's Parish at 9311 South Francisco Avenue on September 22, 2012 at 4:00 pm until 11:00 pm. The entertainment for the evening is featuring: Katie Quiek and Yard Fulla Cars. Bring the entire family for a day of fun, food, and entertainment. Come join us for the best ribs on the Southside!

If you would like to be a sponsor or cook at Rib Fest, please contaet, Arlene Baumann at (708) 422-6429 or arlenebaumann@comcast.net

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FAR SOUTH EDITION

Volume 10 | Number 16 | August 21 , 2012

Oak Forest, Orland Park, Tinley Park

Fly dumping is against the law in Orland Park

by Jan Glaz

It is now unlawful to dump any type of trash on anyone else's property anywhere in the village of Orland Park. The Village Code Amendment Prohibit Dumping of Garbage. Waste, etc. on Someone Else's Property. Title 6, Health, and Nuisances, Ordinance, met with approval at the Village of Orland Park Board of Trustees Meeting on August 6th. In 2009 the village passed the Crime Free Rental Housing Ordinance to regulate rented property. Shortly thereafter, landlords from Orland Park, Tinley Park and Oak Forest got together to form the Southwest Landlords Association to share ideas and information with other landlords from those villages.

Recently, the landlords advised that they are experiencing increased incidents of people illegally dumping trash and refuse in the dumpsters on their property and there have been complaints of "fly dumping" on other properties in the village of Orland. The village charged violators in the past with criminal trespass but now it is more appropriate to make these acts unlawful.

The board of trustees also voted in favor of a onetime $2.5 million property tax rebate for this year's property taxes. Everyone who qualifies will be getting the same amount of money drawn from village funds, a pool of $2.5 million. The amount paid each qualified applicant will be determined by the amount of applicants. If 19,000 applicants were to qualify, then the payout would be around $131 each. Applications are due to be in effect from October to December with checks being delivered in March: A quote from Mayor McLaughlin. "We're just happy to give something back. Even a small amount helps."

Endnotes: Orland Park's Centennial Park will have a new addition by next year, a three acre dog park, if approved by the board of trustees at the next village meeting. The cost of the park, $182,761, will be shared between the village and Orland Township according to an intergovernmental agreement. It is reported that in the terms of the intergovernmental agreement the township would pay half, not to exceed $100,000.

Oak Forest pays Oak Lawn to negotiate for water twice over

by Jan Glaz

It was disclosed at the Oak Forest City Council Meeting held on August 14th that to continue negotiations with Oak Lawn for water service to Oak Forest and their neighboring towns of Tinley Park, Orland Park, Mokena, and New Lenox, will require additional money. In an effort to extend the arbitration contract with Holland and Knight the board of trustees approved an additional cost not to exceed $8,525, which is 11% of the total amount shared between the other municipalities; Tinley Park pays 28%, Orland Park 33%, New Lenox 18% and Mokena 10% to continue the mediations. Previously, in March, Oak Forest agreed to pay $10,000 towards negotiations when they and the other south suburban communities entered into a contract with Oak Lawn. Alderman Simon expressed frustration, he asked, "Is there an end in sight to these costs?"

Unpaid Violations: The next items agreed upon were in regard to debt collecting. The Amendment to Collection Services Agreement between the City of Oak Forest and the Municipal Collection Services, Inc. necessary to administrate the local debt recovery program which would allow Oak Forest to collect monies owed and the revised Intergovernmental Agreement for the recovery of local debt between the City of Oak Forest and the Illinois Office of the Comptroller, to permit the files of people who owed money to the city due to violations to be uploaded and thereby collect owed money by offsetting debtors wages and/or their State of Illinois tax refund. Finance Director Colleen Julian stressed that this should coincide with tax season as that is when the city will receive 75% recovery.

Final approval: A budget adjustment relating to the purchase and improvement of property at 15426 South Cicero. Adam Dotson, Commercial Development Director, mentioned the importance of making sure funding is available, as the closing of the property was planned for Friday, August 17th.

Oak Forest Deputy Fire Chief Charley Sopko (left) accepts a $1,674 local tourism grant from Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau Marketing Manager Kim Kislowski and President and CEO Jim Garrett

City receives $1,674 local tourism grant to promote National Firefighter Combat Challenge

Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau grant helps market the Challenge

The City of Oak Forest in partnership with MABAS 24 recently received a $1,674 Local Tourism Marketing Grant from the Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau to promote the National Firefighter Combat Challenge, which will take place September 13 through September 16 in the Oak Forest Commons Shopping Center parking lot at 159th Street and Central Avenue.

The $1,674 grant will be used to create a billboard on 180/94 and brochures. Last year, the Challenge, which was held in Tinley Park, attracted more than 500 spectators each day and enjoyed a record-setting number of competitors with more than 400 challengers competing individually, in pairs, and in five-person teams from across the United States and Canada.

"We are thrilled to bring the 'toughest two minutes in sports' to Oak Forest," said Oak Forest Deputy Fire Chief Charley Sopko. "It really is exciting to watch these firefighters compete – it's almost like the Olympics in the Southland. And, we'll have many other activities for families to enjoy."

In addition to the Challenge, the four-day event includes a kids' challenge, high school challenge, swap meet, craft beer fest, live music, and more. For a complete schedule of events, please visit www.mabas24.org.

The Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau distributes up to $46,000 annually to Southland municipalities and not-for-profit organizations to promote events designed to draw visitors into the Chicago Southland region for overnight stays. These visitors contribute substantially to the Southland economy through stays in regional hotels, dining at local restaurants, shopping, recreational activities, and needed services travelers require, such as gas, oil and sundry items. The Local Tourism Grant program is a way for the Bureau to extend its marketing reach," said Jim Garrett, CDME, President and CEO of the Chicago Southland CVB. "The marketing efforts by our communities – in addition to marketing efforts by the Bureau, help us better promote the many festivals and events and area attractions throughout the Southland to potential visitors." For more information about the Challenge, please visit www.mabas24.org or call 708-687-6050.

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SOUTH SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 13 | Number 16 | August 21, 2012

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

Palos Heights Grand Prize Raffle winner receives Corvette

by Matt Mayer

The Aug 7 Palos Heights City Council Meeting commenced with Mayor Robert Straz presenting prizes to the winners of the Classic Car Event Raffle. The event was held on July 19 and the grand prize winner was Todd Bohr, who received a 1976 Corvette. The remainder of the winners won the following monetary awards: Bob Colletti-$2,000, Richard Mickle-$1,000, Jeff Braasch-$500, and Mike Graven-$250.

Other highlights: The city council unanimously approved an ordinance increasing the number of class B liquor licenses by one. This will permit the sale of packaged liquor for a new 7 Eleven Store which is slated to open in September on the southwest corner of the Southwick Commons Shopping Center at 11900 S. Harlem Avenue.

A request from Trinity Christian College to host and conduct their annual 5K Troll Trot through the Navajo Hills subdivision was approved as well as a request from American Heritage Sertoma to conduct their annual "Candy Days" on Friday, Sept. 7 and Saturday, Sept. 8. A request from the Knights of Columbus, St. Theodore Guerin Council 14057, to conduct their annual Tootsie Roll Drive on Friday, Sept. 14 and Saturday, Sept. 15 as well as a request from the Knights of Columbus, San Salvador Archangel Council 282, to conduct their annual Tootsie Roll Drive on Friday, Sept. 21 and Saturday, Sept. 22 was approved.

In other noteworthy news, the South Cook County Mosquito Abatement (SCCMA) District in conjunction with the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Cook County Department of Public Health issued a report that surveillances indicate a large increase in West Nile Virus activity in mosquitoes.

The SCCMA District stresses the importance of residents and businesses to eliminate stagnant water on their properties. The precautions are essentially the same as they were when the outbreak began in 2002 when 884 Illinois human cases were reported and 4,156 total human cases were reported in the United States that year according to the SCCMAD website.

The SCCMAD recommends the following precautions. Avoid being outdoors especially between dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most prevalent. When outdoors at this time, use mosquito repellent. Change water in birdbaths and wading pools daily. Report catch basin or standing water on your property to SCCMAD. Clean gutters and downspouts to avoid the accumulation of water. Eliminate water in flowerpots, children's toys, old tires and any other receptacles. This alleviates a breading ground for mosquito larvae, which must live in stagnate water 7 to 10 days before developing into a mosquito.

Additional information may be obtained by visiting the SCCMAD Website at www. seemad.com or by contacting them at 708.333.4120.

Seated left to right: Clerk Roger Benson and Trustee Marianne Viverito-Chmela
Standing left to right: Trustee David Walsh, Trustee John 'Jack' Lind, Trustee Michael Mahoney, Supervisor John F. Murphy, Highway Commissioner Steve Loulousis and Assessor John Z. Toscas.

Supervisor Jack Murphy announces changes at Worth Township

At its regularly scheduled meeting on July 26, 2012, the Worth Township Board unanimously appointed Trustee Roger Benson to the position of Worth Township Clerk. Clerk Benson will fill out the remainder of the late Thomas 'Bud' Gavin's term. Clerk Gavin died July 7, 2012 following a long and distinguished career serving Worth Township.

Roger Benson was first elected Trustee in 1997 and has chaired the Building and Grounds Committee for his entire tenure. In addition, the Township Board unanimously appointed Marianne Viverito-Chmela as Trustee to complete Clerk Benson's term. Ms. Viverito-Chmela brings with a wealth of experience from her position as a Congressional Aide to U.S. Congressman Dan Lipinski. She has been a resident of Oak Lawn for 14 years and looks forward to serving her constituents within Worth Township . The Township offices are located at 11601 S Pulaski in Alsip , IL. To contact any of the township officials, call 708-371-2900, Monday through Friday between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm.

Seniors in Worth enjoy going out to eat

Take a trip with us to local restaurants each month. Enjoy a variety of options. Indulge in your own taste and spend as much or as little as you would like! Let us do the driving as you relax with friends! Menu will be available at time of registration.

Pay for your portion of the check at time of trip. Sept. 12th, we will be going to Chinatown in Chicago, IL. from 10:30 until 2pm.

Please register soon as possible at Terrace Centre. For more information, please call the Worth Park District at (708) 448-7080 or visit www.worthparkdistrict.org

Concert in the Park in Palos Hills

John Boda, The Music Man, will be performing at the Palos Hills Town Square Park, 8455 W 103rd St, under the Gazebo, on Wednesday, September 12th, 6:30pm until 8:00 pm.

John is a fine, seasoned performer with an extensive background in music. He has been performing professionally for over 30 years as a singer/guitarist. He also worked in the radio industry for 14 years as a radio personality and music director. He has a repertoire of 1,000 songs! So bring a lawn chair or a blanket and join us for an evening of soft rock, big band, and jazz!

Palos Park Public Library invites children and their families for the movies

Children and their families are invited to the Saturday Morning Movie Matinee at the Palos Park Public Library on Saturday, August 25th at 11am.

The library is located at 12330 Forest Glen Blvd. Palos Park, IL. We will be featuring a movie with the world famous singing pre-teen chipmunk trio as they return to contend with the pressures of school, celebrity, and a rival female music group known as The Chipettes.

Please register for this special movie event by calling the library at (708)448-1530. Light refreshments will be served. Run time 88 minutes

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B-MAC EDITION

Volume 6 | Number 16 | August 21, 2012

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Alsip residents block government change

by Jan Glaz

An outpour of residents attended the Village of Alsip Board Meeting on August 6th to demand more transparency from the Board of Trustees. Their outrage stemmed from the fact that the trustees were attempting to change, without voter approval, their method of government. Residents in attendance had only recently discovered, by way of an informative flyer, that a change was on the agenda that would cost taxpayers more money and change their form of government. Mayor Kitching opened the meeting with a public session, but due to the fact that there was almost standing room only in the meeting chambers, the Mayor announced it would be a public hearing. The hearing continued for approximately 90 minutes as one resident after another confronted and opposed the trustees.

On the Agenda: Approval of an Ordinance Establishing Compensation and Rate of Pay for Elected Officials of the Village of Alsip. Although Trustee Quinn and other trustees tried to convince residents that approving the ordinance was only about allowing pay reduction for elected officials, the citizens had been informed otherwise. In fact it was the first step in paving the way to hire a Village Administrator. Administrators are outside people who are paid very high salaries. Many strong points were brought forward in support of Mayor Kitching including his accomplishments since taking office. The Mayor commented that during these hard times, when other communities are suffering: Alsip holds an "AA" bond rating. Similar to the board meeting held on July 16th, Trustee Dalzell did not make a motion to approve; he did make a motion to table the ordinance until a later date. Mayor Kitching informed all that recordings of this meeting and the previous board meeting of July 16th will be available on the Alsip website.

Spending: The city council agreed to purchase one 2012 Ford F-250 Super Duty 4X4 regular cab pickup truck from Terry's Ford at a cost of $27,510.00. Saving: A request for approval to extend the three year contract with Folgers Flag & Decorating, Inc. for 1 more year (2012 holiday season at a cost of $7300) a 13% reduction over the previous contract, to included installation, maintenance, removal and insurance, met with approval before the meeting adjourned.

Midlothian landlords join forces for crime free housing

by Jan Glaz

Mayor Terrence Stephens contributed important information regarding landlords and the advent of crimes occurring at residential rental properties on August 8th at the Village of Midlothian Board Meeting. Stephens announced that September 8th will be the first social event under crime free housing. All owners of residential property need to register and to attend classes. Those classes include information on background checks and also include information on the contracts with their tenants that would allow them to evict tenants in the event of crimes. The second point the Mayor emphasized was the physical aspect of the properties such as peepholes in doors, bushes cut back, lighting and other security issues of a building nature. Stephens urged residents to call police and depending on the nature of the crime the call will be anonymous, he then said, "We get these thugs and we bust them and we bust them and we bust them... but we need the documentation, the best thing you can do is call." In conclusion Stephens affirmed it's a team effort and stressed the value of people helping by joining in a neighborhood walk.

Items of interest approved on the consent agenda; A request to solicit by Midlothian Firefighters for Fill the Boot MDS on August 24th and 25th from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.; Clerk Potempa and Deputy Clerk Kolacki to attend the Municipal Clerks of Illinois Institute and Academy Seminar at a cost of $1,075.00 per person, for the total amount of $2,150.00; (17 computers and 10 monitors to be replaced at a cost of $17,780.32) and Teamviewer Software at ($888.00) for a total of $18,668.32.

The final announcement was offered by Mayor Stephens: A free of charge, Rock and Roll, concert on the green to be held on Augnst 25th from 6:30 pm. to 11:00 pm.

Pictured are (left to right) Art Hannus, Ed McElroy and Bob Rita

Local access television is very informative

Ed McElroy, host of "The Ed McElroy Show", recently interviewed Art Hannus, President of the Chicago Police Memorial and Bob Rita, Illinois State Representative, 28th District. That show will air at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, August 28 and again on Tuesday, September 4th on Comcast Channel 19.

Robbins and Crestwood resolve dispute

by Jan Glaz

On August 16th at the Village of Crestwood Board of Trustees Meeting a settlement agreement was approved regarding a lawsuit by and between the Village of Crestwood and the Village of Robbins. Robbins admitted liability for the amount owed, $223,518.95. Both Crestwood and Robbins met and conferred in an effort to amicably resolve the dispute between them relating to the lawsuit. Among the terms of agreement Robbins agreed to pay Crestwood the sum of Two Hundred Twenty-three Thousand Five Hundred Eighteen and 95/100 in increments extending over a period commencing from September 1st 2012 to Mareh 1st 2019. Further, no interest will be paid by Robbins on any amount due and owing to Crestwood.

Officer Keith Contant was appointed to the position of part-time Police Officer/Shift Supervisor, at the rate of $13.25 per hour.

Patriotism Week: Before the meeting adjourned Mayor Robert Stranczek proclaimed the week of September 9, through the 15, 2012, as National Patriotism Week, the Mayor urged that during this event all citizens join with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks in expressing gratitude for the privilege of Americanism Citizenship with appropriate celebrations and observances. The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, through its constitution, is a Patriotic Order that promotes the ideals that the citizens of this nation live in freedom, otherwise, through carelessness or indifference, the rights and liberties enjoyed may vanish.

11th Annual District 130 Golf Outing to benefit Middle School Program

Cook County School District 130 invites the community to support the Middle School Sports Program with a day on the links at the 11th Annual District 130 Golf Outing on Friday, September 14, at The Meadows Golf Club, 2802 W. 123rd Street, in Blue Island. Proceeds raised from this event will be used to help offset the cost of after school interscholastic sports programs for boys and girls in grades six through eight from the communities of Blue Island, Crestwood, Alsip, and Robbins.

Registration begins at 3 pm and play will begin with a shotgun start at 4 pm. Please arrive no later than 3:30 pm. The afternoon will conclude with a dinner provided by Beggars Pizza located at 12700 S. Kedzie in Blue Island, starting at approximately 7 pm.

The cost to participate is $60 per person which includes nine holes of golf with half cart, dinner and prizes. If golf isn't your sport, please stay for the delicious dinner, socializing and raffle for only $30. In addition, individuals or businesses may sponsor a golf hole for $200 or donate a prize.

Registration and donation forms are available www.district130.org. All forms must be returned by Friday, September 14 and please make checks payable to Cook County School District 130. For additional information, please contact Michael McLaughlin at 708-385-2915 or via email at mmclaughlin@district130.org.

Local High School Student could win a trip to Washington, DC and a $30,000 scholarship

Commander Joseph Stachon of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Department of Illinois, today announced the kickoff of the 66th year of the VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary Voice of Democracy Scholarship Competition. Local high school students have the opportunity to compete for thousands of dollars in scholarships and a trip to Washington , D.C.

Students begin by competing at the local Post level with a deadline of November 1st. Post winners advance to District and then the first place District winner advances to the State competition. All state winners receive a four day trip to Washington , D.C. A total of $152,000 is awarded to national finalists. First place is $30,000.

Annually the VFW provides more than $2.3 million in scholarships. Each year, around 50,000 students participate in the competition. Students must write and record a three-to-five minute essay on this theme for 2012-2013, "Is Our Constitution Still Relevant?" on an audio cassette tape or audio CD and present their recording, typed essay, and entry form at their local VFW Post.

Interested students and teachers should contact the nearest Veterans of Foreign Wars Post, or e mail vfwil@vfwil.org for further information. FOR DETAILS VISIT http://www.vfw.org/Community/Voice-of-Democracy

Moraine Valley offering OSHA 10-Hour classes

Securing a 10-Hour OSHA card may increase the chance of employment in manufacturing or construction. Moraine Valley Community College will offer OSHA 10-Hour General Industry and OSHA 10-Hour Construction workshops at its Palos Hills campus, 9000 W. College Pkwy in August.

Upon successful completion of the required OSHA exam, students will receive a 10-Hour General Industry or 10-Hour Construction card issued by the Department of Labor. This card is a resume booster and can be presented to current or future employers.

The OSHA 10-Hour General Industry course will be August 23 and 24, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The cost is $99 and includes the OSHA exam.

The free OSHA 10-Hour Construction, offered in partnership with the Illinois Teamsters/Employers Apprenticeship and Training Fund affiliated with Joint Councils 25 and 26, will be October 20 and 21, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information about these or other noncredit courses, call Corporate, Community and Continuing Education at (708) 974-5690 or email ccce@morainevalley.edu.

Seating is limited. Register in person at the Registration Office, located in S125 on campus, or by calling (708) 974-2110 (TTY for the hearing impaired 708-974-9556). Participants also can register online at morainevalley.edu by selecting "Register for Noncredit Classes" under Academic Focus, then "Search, register and pay for noncredit classes."

Thirty three athletes and two coaches from Illinois will represent six countries during the Paralympic Games

Thirty-three athletes and two coaches with ties to the State of Illinois will represent six countries during the London 2012 Paralympic Games, August 29th to September 9th. Twenty-nine of the athletes are student/athletes, alumni or have attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The USA Paralympic Team is 227 members strong, 133 men and 94 women. American athletes will compete in 19 sports and hope to win more than the 99 medals the USA claimed in Beijing 2008.

The London 2012 Paralympic Games will feature biggest Paralympic Games ever with 4,200 athletes from 160 countries who will compete in 20 sports.

American athletes will compete in 19 sports contested throughout the 11 days of competition in London, where they will look to better their third-place finish (99 medals) from Beijing 2008.

According to International Paralympic Committee a record 2.1 million tickets have already been sold for the London games. This amount surpasses the previous record of 1.8 million tickets sold for the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games. More than 600,000 tickets were purchased in July!

Adam Bleakney	USA	Marathon	University of Illinois
Patrick Anderson	Canada	Wheelchair Basketball	University of Illinois
Eric Barber	USA	Wheelchair Basketball	
Jane A. Neil	Elementary School-ChicagoStagg High School – Palos Hills		
Joe Berenyi,	USA	Cycling Aurora, Ill	
Matt Buchi	USA	Wheelchair BasketballCoach	University of Illinois
Sarah Castle	USA	Wheelchair Basketball	University of Illinois
Ryan Chalmers	USA Track400m, 800m, 1500m, , 4x400m relay Marathon		
University of Illinois			
Shelley Chaplin	Australia	Wheelchair Basketball	University of Illinois
Jennifer Chew	USA	Wheelchair Basketball	University of Illinois
Tracey Ferguson	Canada	Wheelchair Basketball	University of Illinois
Anjali Forber-Pratt	USA	Track100m200m400m	University of Illinois
Helen Freeman	Great Britain	Wheelchair Basketball	University of Illinois
Jessica Galli	USA	Track100m200m400m800m	University of Illinois
Joshua George	USA	Track200m400m800m1500m 5000m 4x400m	
relayMarathon	University of Illinois		
Alyssa Gialamas	USA	Swimming Naperville, Ill	
Tony Iniguez	USA	TrackCoach	University of Illinois
Bridie Kean	Australia	Wheelchair Basketball	University of Illinois
Hiroaki Kozai	Japan	Wheelchair Basketball	University of Illinois
Adam Lancia	Canada	Wheelchair Basketball	University of Illinois
Ray Martin	USA	Track100m 200m 400m	University of Illinois
incoming freshman			
Tatyana McFadden	USA	Track100m 400m 800m 1500m Marathon	
University of Illinois			
Amanda McGrory	USA	Track800m 1500m 5000m Marathon	University of
Illinois			
Nichole Millage	USA	Sitting Volleyball	Champaign Centennial High School
Kari Miller	USA	Sitting Volleyball	University of Illinois
Grant Mizens	Australia	Wheelchair Basketball	University of Illinois
Edina Mueller	Germany	Wheelchair Basketball	University of Illinois
Greta Rae Neimanas	USA	Cycling Whitney Young High School	
Aaron Pike	USA	Track 800m1500m 5000m4x400m relay Marathon	
University of Illinois			
Susannah Scaroni	USA	Marathon	University of Illinois
Christina Schwab (nee Ripp)	USA	Track5000m Marathon	University of Illinois
Steve Serio	USA	Wheelchair Basketball	University of Illinois
Brian Siemann	USA	Track100m 200m 400m800m 4x400m Marathon	
University of Illinois			
Brandon Wagner	Canada	Wheelchair Basketball	University of Illinois
Will Waller	USA	Wheelchair Basketball	University of Illinois Semi
High School – Chicago			

Medicare prescription drug premiums to remain steady for third straight year

Coverage improves and out-of-pocket savings grow as a result of the health care law

Average basic premiums for Medicare prescription drug plans are projected to remain constant in 2013, Health and Human Services Secretary (HHS) Kathleen Sebelius announced today. The average 2013 monthly premium for basic prescription drug coverage is expected to be $30. Average premiums for 2012 were projected to be $30 and ultimately averaged $29.67. At the same time, since the law was enacted, seniors and people with disabilities have saved $3.9 billion on prescription drugs as the Affordable Care Act began closing the "donut hole" coverage gap.

"Premiums are holding steady and, thanks to the health care law, millions of people with Medicare are saving an average of over $600 each year on their prescription drugs," said Secretary Sebelius.

Today's projection for the average premium for 2013 is based on bids submitted by drug and health plans for basic coverage during the 2013 benefit year, and calculated by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Office of the Actuary.

The upcoming annual enrollment period, which begins Oct. 15 and ends Dec. 7, 2012, allows people with Medicare, their families and their caregivers to choose their plans for next year by comparing their current coverage and quality ratings to other plan offerings. New benefit choices are effective Jan. 1, 2013.

Because of the Affordable Care Act, out-of-pocket savings on medications for people with Medicare continue to grow. Last month, CMS announced that more than 5.2 million people with Medicare have saved over $3.9 billion on prescription drugs in the Medicare Part D donut hole since the law was enacted. In the first half of 2012, over 1 million people with Medicare saved a total of $687 million on prescription drugs, averaging $629 per person this year.

As a result of the Affordable Care Act, coverage for both brand name and generic drugs in the coverage gap will continue to increase over time until 2020, when the coverage gap will be fully closed. This year, people with Medicare received a 50 percent discount on covered brand name drugs and 14 percent coverage of generic drugs in the donut hole. In 2013, Medicare Part D's coverage of brand name drugs will begin to increase, meaning that people with Medicare will receive a total of 52.5 percent off the cost of brand name drugs (a 50 percent discount and an additional 2.5 percent in coverage) and coverage for 21 percent of the cost of generic drugs in the donut hole.

For more information on how the Affordable Care Act closes the Medicare drug benefit donut hole, please visit: http://www.healthcare.gov/law/features/65-older/drug-discounts/index.html

Lipinski Introduces Bill to Stop Cheating by Foreign Companies that Hurts American Taxpayers and Costs American Jobs

Congressman Dan Lipinski (IL-3) announced the introduction of legislation that will help American manufacturers create jobs by making it harder for foreign companies to illegally avoid billions of dollars in customs duties.

The Customs Training Enhancement Act, H.R. 6110, will improve information sharing between the private sector and U.S. Customs and Border Protection, enabling agents to identify schemes to import foreign goods without paying duties. "Rampant cheating by foreign firms is putting American companies out of business and costing American workers their jobs," Rep. Lipinski said. "This bill will help us to fight back by ensuring that customs agents are equipped with the latest intelligence on the schemes foreign companies are using to gain an unfair advantage."

The Coalition to Enforce Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Orders estimates that duty evasion in just seven narrow industry categories costs taxpayers $400 million annually, and that the total cost of duty evasion across all industries is many times higher. An estimated $50 million in antidumping duties on a single product, mattress springs, is evaded annually, according to the coalition. Foreign companies avoid duties in a variety of ways, including by shipping goods from one country to another on their way to the United States in order to disguise their country of origin, misclassifying products, and undervaluing products to reduce the amount of duties owed.

H.R. 6110 is modeled on a successful partnership between the steel industry and Customs and Border Protection, in which industry professionals teach customs agents how to spot particular products that have been deliberately mislabeled in order to avoid duties. Under Rep. Lipinski's bill, CBP would be required to organize seminars on a regular basis at which company and industry representatives would be able to directly share critical intelligence with agents to better enable them to prevent customs fraud by foreign firms. As they are immediately and directly affected by duty evasion, American companies and their workers are often the first to discover that foreign competitors are cheating.

In a recent report, the Government Accountability Office described various instances of duty evasion, including cases in which numerous importers failed to declare that wood flooring from China was subject to countervailing duties; an importer falsely claimed steel nails from China were exempt from duties; and Chinese honey was shipped through Thailand to disguise its origins. In July, the federal government charged eight individuals with avoiding customs duties on hundreds of millions of dollars of foreign-made cigarettes and apparel imported through the Port of Long Beach, California.

Evasion of antidumping and countervailing duties is an especially grave problem, as such duties are put in place in order to protect American industries that have already been hurt by illegal trade practices such as selling goods below cost. There are 114 countervailing duty and antidumping orders in effect against goods made in China, the most of any nation. Such goods include solar-energy products, candles, steel cylinders, saccharin, shrimp, and clothes hangers.

The St. Louis Dispatch reported last year that two Missouri hanger plants and one Illinois hanger plant shut down amid illegal dumping of Chinese-made hangers. Products from countries such as India, Taiwan, South Korea, and Japan that are subject to countervailing and antidumping duties include steel pipes, plastic bags, diamond sawblades, and cement. "Every time foreign manufacturers evade duties by lying and cheating, they're hurting the American people in two ways," Rep. Lipinski said. "First, they're robbing taxpayers by failing to pay the federal government the money they owe. And second, they're causing American businesses to lose money and costing more Americans their jobs. We cannot allow this to continue. H.R. 6110 will help stop this widespread cheating."

Obama administration issues new rules to cut red tape for doctors and hospitals, saving up to $9 billion

Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced to the release of a new rule that will cut red tape for doctors, hospitals, and health plans. In combination with a previously issued regulation, the rule will save up to $9 billion over the next ten years. The regulation adopts operating rules for making health care claim payments electronically and describing adjustments to claim payments.

"These new rules will cut red tape, save money and ensure doctors spend more time seeing patients and less time filling out forms," said Secretary Sebelius. Studies have found that the average physician spends three weeks a year on billing and insurance related tasks, and, in a physician's office, two-thirds of a full-time employee per physician is necessary to conduct these tasks. Many physician practices and hospitals receive and deposit paper checks, and manually post and reconcile the health care claim payments to their accounting systems.

By receiving payments electronically and automating the posting of the payments, a physician practice and hospital's administrative time and costs can be decreased. The operating rules build upon industry-wide health care electronic fund transfer (EFT) standards that HHS adopted in January of this year. Together, the previously issued EFT standards and the EFT and electronic remittance advice (ERA) operating rules are projected to save between $2.7 billion and more than $9 billion in administrative costs over ten years by reducing inefficient manual administrative processes for physician practices, hospitals, and health plans.

Operating rules include best business practices on how electronic transactions are transmitted and often target obstacles that physician practices and health insurers have with using electronic transactions. For instance, the rule announced requires insurers to offer a standardized, online enrollment for EFT and ERA so that physicians and hospitals can more easily enroll with multiple health plans to receive those transactions electronically. The rule also requires health plans to send the EFT within a certain amount of days of the ERA, which helps providers reconcile their accounts more quickly. Administrative Simplification: Adoption of Operating Rules for Health Care Electronic Funds Transfers (EFT) and Remittance Advice Transactions were developed through extensive discussions with industry stakeholders. The rule adopts the Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare's Committee on Operating Rules for Information Exchange (CAQH CORE) Phase III EFT & ERA Operating Rule Set, including the CORE v5010 Master Companion Guide Template, with the exception of Requirement 4.2 of the Phase III CORE 350 Health Care Claim Payment/Advice (835) Infrastructure Rule. Collectively, these rules are referred to as the EFT & ERA Operating Rule Set.

The regulation announced may be viewed at www.ofr.gov/inspection.aspx and will be effective upon its publication in the Federal Register on Aug. 10, 2012. The comment period closes on Oct. 9, 2012. The compliance date for operating rules for the health care electronic funds transfers and remittance advice transaction is Jan. 1, 2014.

Friends of the Chicago Portage National Historic Site announces 3rd in their series of 5 free public presentations

Mark your calendars for Saturday, August 25th, 2012 at 1:00 PM until 3:00 PM., the 3rd of the series of 5 free public presentations, titled "The Treaty of St Louis and the Indian Boundary Line" is being presented.

Please join amateur historian and author Lou Ritten Saturday, August 25th 2012 as he discusses "The Treaty of St Louis and the Indian Boundary Line." Lou will relate how (following the War of 1812) local tribes ceded to the United States a 20 mile strip of land centered on the mouth of the Chicago River to near present day Ottawa Illinois. Through this Treaty of St. Louis of 1816, the government acquired control over the Chicago River corridor linking Lake Michigan to the Mississippi River.

The presentation will be held at the Village of Lyons Community Center 4200 South Lawndale in southwest suburban Lyons Illinois.60534. The presentation will be free and open to the public.

It will begin at 1:00 P.M and will conclude before 3:00 PM. Groups should RSVP by calling Jeff Carter at 312-771-6855. Light refreshments will be served and free parking will be available in the north lot.

For a full listing of the 2012 series, check our website at www.chicagoportage.org

Friends of the Chicago Portage promotes the historic interpretation, ecological restoration and appropriate development of the Chicago Portage National Historic Site through volunteer advocacy, public events and other projects that raise public awareness of the site's history and significance.

Open Labor Day Monday, September 3rd Reduced admission program for the Oak Lawn Children's Museum

The Museum Admission Card allows you to purchase 10 admissions for just $5 each. The card sells for $50, which is a 17% savings off of single ticket admission. This is a great way for members to save, also, when they bring friends to the museum.

Fun Run and Fall Fun Fest (Sponsored By: Advocate Christ Medical Center & Qdoba): The Children's Museum in Oak Lawn is excited to be combining two of our most successful events for one full day of FUN! Join us for our Fun Run 5K and our Fall Fun Fest on October 6th. Last year we welcomed over 1,500 people and this year with additional marketing, the day will be filled with fun activities for the whole family such as trackless train, inflatable jumpy, craft vendors, special entertainment.

For more information, please contact Bernadette at 708-423-6709 ext 204 or at Bernadette@cmoaklawn.org 7am Racer Registration 8am 5K Run, $25 preregistration* (before 10/1/2012) fee required ($30 after 10/1/2012) 9am Kid's Dash, $10 registration required 9am-1pm Fall Fun Fest *Online registration is available on our website at www.cmoaklawn.org Sponsorships are also available!

Hickory Hills Park District announces programs for August and September

Try our new after school program at the Hickory Hills Park District. This program is for grades Kindergarten through 5th grade and will be held at Krueger Park Recreation Center located at 9100 S. 88th Avenue. While the children are here they will work on their school work, play a variety of games, make craft projects, burn off energy in the gym and sometimes watch a movie.

Drinks and snacks will be provided by the park district. You have the choice to enroll in 2, 3, or 5 days a week. This program is open to students in School District 117. Transportation will be provided for Glen Oaks & Dorn School. Sorrick & Oak Ridge need to provide their own transportation. August 15-September 28 – 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. 2 Days $93 3 Days $113 5 Days $149 Month of October 2 Days $63 3 Days $78 5 Days $115

Hickory Hills Park District Annual Fishing Derby will be held Saturday, August 25 at Martin Park Pond, 89th Place & 78th Avenue from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. Awards will be given for the longest fish caught in each age division and a free raffle will be held for all participants. You must furnish your own pole and bait. There is a one pole limit. Kids must catch their own fish. Ages: 6 & up (children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult). Participants 17 & older must have a valid fishing license. **Bring your tent, camper** (parking lot only), snacks, food and flashlight and join us for 2nd Annual Campout in Hickory Hills at Kasey Meadow Park, 8047 W. 91st Place. Enjoy music, games, face painter and a camp fire under the stars. Grilling will not be allowed. Check in: 3:00 p.m. (September 8) and check out: 10:00 a.m. (September 9). All ages (under 21 must be accompanied by an adult). Fee: $13 resident (tent/camper); $18 Non-Resident (tent/camper). For more information about special events and programming please call 708-598-1233 or visit our website at www.hhparkdistrict.org.

Tinley Park Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting

The Tinley Park Public Library Board of Trustees will meet on Wednesday, August 22, 2012 at 7 pm. in the library boardroom. Meetings are open to the public. The minutes are posted on the library's web site at www.tplibrary.org.

For additional information, please call 708.532.0160, x 3. The library is located at 7851 Timber Drive. LIBRARY CLOSED LABOR DAY The Tinley Park Public Library will close on Sunday, September 2 and Monday, September 3, 2011 for Labor Day. For more information phone 708.532.0160, x 3. The library is located at 7851 Timber Drive. Our website is www.tplibrary.org

MR. D'S MAGIC SHOW The Tinley Park Public Library will host Mr. D's Magic Show for all ages on Saturday, September 1, 2012 from 11 am - noon. Mr. D and his famous magic truck will be coming to the library! No registration needed for a lawn seat near Mr. D's truck. We'll be in the meeting room if it rains. Phone 708.532.0160, x 2. The Tinley Park Public Library is located at 7851 Timber Drive. Our website is www.tplibrary.org

READING UNDER A TENT The Tinley Park Public Library will host Reading Under a Tent for families with children ages 2 and up on Thursday, September 27, 2012 from 7-8 pm. Bring the family to the library with a flashlight and a bed sheet. Make a tent from the sheet using chairs, and curl up to read or play games. Register each family member attending the program. The Tinley Park Public Library is located at 7851 Timber Drive. Our website is www.tplibrary.org

John O'Connor school's new Assistant Athletic Director

Marist High School names new Assistant Athletic Director

Marist President, Brother Patrick McNamara fms and Principal, Larry Tucker are pleased to announce the appointment of John O'Connell as the school's new Assistant Athletic Director. John will assist Marist Athletic Director Bob Lim.

John is a Marist alumnus from the Class of 1975. He received his bachelor degree in Business Administration from the University of Notre Dame in 1979. Past work experience includes sales vice-president positions with IBM, Hewlett Packard and Dell Computer.

BOOK CLUB: BE EAGER ABOUT READING The Tinley Park Public Library will host Book Club: Be Eager About Reading for children birth through kindergarten. Children may earn prizes by having a parent read books to them. Registration begins Sunday, September 9 and the Club ends Saturday, October 13. For details or to register, come to the Youth Services Reference desk. The Tinley Park Public Library is located at 7851 Timber Drive. Our website is www.tplibrary.org.

The Tinley Park Public Library will host Read Like a Man for teens in grades 6-12 on Tuesday, September 18, 2012 from 7-8 pm. For our inaugural meeting of Read like a Man, we will discuss Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter by Seth Grahame-Smith. Snacks will be served and we will plan future meetings of the group. Online registration begins on August 20 at www.tplibrary.org and click on Programs and Events. Phone registration begins on August 21 at 708.532.0160, x 2. The Tinley Park Public Library is located at 7851 Timber Drive.

EARLY BIRD FLICKS – FALL SESSION

The Tinley Park Public Library will host Early Bird Flicks this fall on the following Mondays, September 10, 24, October 8, 22, and November 12 & 26, 2012 at 11 am.. There is a list of the movies posted at the library and in our newsletter or you may phone the Patron Services Desk at 708.532.0160, x 3. No registration required. The library is located at 7851 Timber Drive. Our website www.tplibrary.org.

CHAIR Yoga – Fall SESSION

The Tinley Park Public Library will hold Chair Yoga this fall on the following Thursdays, September 13, 27, and November 8, 2012 from 11 am–12:30 pm. for ages 18 and up. Certified Instructor Kathy Ruiter will guide you in gentle, non- strenuous chair exercises and meditation. Wear comfortable clothing. Register at the Patron Services Desk on the 2nd Thursday of the month for the following month. You must register separately for each class you plan to attend. There will be a $3 non-refundable fee for each class payable at the time of registration.

JOKER'S WILD CARD CLUB – FALL SESSION The Tinley Park Public Library will host the Joker's Wild Card Club this fall on Tuesdays, September 4, 18, October 2, 16, November 6, and 20, 2012 from 10:30 am–1 pm. Bring your friends and play your favorite card game, or choose a new one like Skip-Bo, Uno, or Phase 10, which will be available. You may also bring your own game. The Club is for entertainment purposes only, no gambling is permitted. No registration required. For more information, please call 708.532.0160, x 3.

How to Save on Back-to-School Shopping

By Jason Alderman

On the fun-o-meter, I'd probably rank back-to-school shopping right above getting a flu shot and preparing income taxes. Never mind the hassle of figuring out what our kids need for the coming school year and dragging them to the mall, it's just so expensive.

For example, our son insists that we replace his baseball glove and bat as he enters 7th grade. (He's right – his four-year-old mitt has seen better days.) Also, our daughter is starting soccer and needs cleats – good ones aren't cheap and footwear is one area where we refuse to scrimp.

Many years ago my wife and I learned our lesson and started setting aside money each month for the inevitable and unexpected, expenses that crop up each fall. By trial and error, and sound advice from fellow parents, we've developed a back-to-school budgeting checklist:

First, calculate how much you can afford to spend on school-related expenses without blowing your overall budget or racking up debt. Scoring bargains won't help your bottom line if you end up paying interest on unpaid balances.

Next, make a comprehensive list of anticipated expenses for each child and build in a cushion for unexpected costs. Try these strategies:

·Examine previous years' bills and compare notes with other, more experienced parents.

·Ask the school which supplies they expect you to buy. Pool resources with other families to take advantage of volume discounts and sales.

·Spread clothing purchases throughout the year so your kids won't outgrow everything at once; plus you can take advantage of off-season sales.

·Review school dress codes so you don't waste money on inappropriate clothing.

·Before buying new clothing or accessories, look for "gently used" items in the closets of your older kids, friends and neighbors, at garage sales, thrift and consignment stores, and sites like Craig's List.

·Find out how much extracurricular activities (athletics, music, art, etc.) cost. Account for uniforms, membership dues, private lessons, field trips, snacks, etc.

·Compare the cost, convenience and nutritional value of school lunches and snacks versus food you prepare yourself.

·Learn your school's policy on immunizations and see what's covered by your insurance – or which ones you can access free at health fairs or community clinics.

·Factor in public transportation, school bus or carpool expenses.

·Although shopping online can save money, time and gas, don't forget shipping and return costs, which could undo any net savings. If your kids are old enough, put them in charge of online comparison shopping.

·Clip newspaper and online coupons. Many stores will match competitors' prices even if their own items aren't on sale. Plus, many consolidation websites post downloadable coupons and sale codes for online retailers.

·Mobile shopping apps let in-store smartphone and mobile browser users scan product barcodes and make on-the-spot price comparisons, read reviews, download coupons, buy products and more.

Some parents wrestle over whether or not to take their kids on shopping trips. I think it's worth the effort so they can hear and absorb your decision-making process and understand what's available to spend. My kids are probably sick of hearing me say, "I'm going to buy this brand of underwear because it's cheaper, which will give us more money to buy a better-quality jacket."

Bottom line: Back-to-school shopping can be tedious, but if you plan carefully, you can save time, money and aggravation.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs. To Follow Jason Alderman on Twitter: www.twitter.com/PracticalMoney.

Alpha Sabbithi

The Oak Lawn Police department sent this information to help find a missing person:

At 0223 AM this date the family of Alpha Sabbithi contacted the Oak Lawn Police to report Oak Lawn resident Alpha Sabbithi missing.

His car was found locked near the Maple Lake forest Preserve in Cook County. There was nothing remarkable about the vehicle's condition. His cell phone was also locked inside the car. Cook County Forest Preserve police responded along with the assistance of a bloodhound from the Joliet Police. The bloodhound tracked a scent to the Saganashkee Slough at 107th and 104 ave.

The scent was lost there. All terrain vehicles were also used in the search. The search has turnedup no new leads to the where about of Alpha Sabbithi. The Cook County Forest Preserve Police having jurisdiction for the area will continue to have officers in that area.

If the public has any information we encourage them to call the Oak Lawn Police at 708 422-8292. The missing's brother Victor , 708 921-0726 has expressed his willingness to speak with anyone looking for more information.

Anyone seeing the where abouts of this person, please call Victor or /and Police.

"PRIDE IN AMERICA" Village of Worth PARADE ENTRY WINNERS 2012
CATEGORY WINNER
BEST FLOAT ENTRY Worth Lion's Club #5
BEST DECORATED VEHICLE ENTRY Safety Support Services #32
BEST CLASSIC VEHICLE ENTRY Michael's Pancake House (Hertz) #22
BEST KIDS GROUP ENTRY Worth Athletic Association #25a
Worth Boy Scout Troop #6a
Worth Panthers Group #25
BEST SPECIALTY ENTRY St. Mark Lutheran Church #31
BEST KIDS PERFORMING GROUP ENTRY Our Lady of Ridge Cheerleaders #16B
AND OVERALL BEST ENTRY IN PARADE

Blue Island Arts Alliance First Fundraiser

On Sunday, August 26, 2012 Jazz Saxophonist Gerald Holden Performs at Raven's Place

The Blue Island Arts Alliance, dedicated to enlivening cultural and educational events in the City of Blue Island, announces its first fundraiser on Sunday, August 26, 2012. The event will help to build resources that the Alliance needs to develop and promote a robust schedule of presentations in the City.

"Our group started with a handful of inspired Blue Island residents who recognized that the venues here, coupled with an interested and eager regional audience, would be attractive to event producers," said Becky Denny, Blue Island Arts Alliance board president.

"Already we've lined up a variety show on September 29 and a live radio presentation of the renowned radio show, "Those Were the Days," hosted by Steve Darnall on November 18."

The fundraiser will be held on Sunday, August 26, 2012 from 6:00pm to 10:00pm at Raven's Place, 13031 Western Avenue in Blue Island. The event will include live music by jazz artist, Gerald Holden. Tickets are $20.00 each and are available for purchase at CARR home-garden-holiday, 2357 York Street, Blue Island.

About Blue Island Arts Alliance The Blue Island Arts Alliance is a group of individuals who are passionate about the City of Blue Island, its legacy of culture and entertainment, and its potential to attract engaging events and engaged audiences. The group's mission is to educate, entertain, inspire, and connect the community through the arts. Formerly known as The Lyric Theater Project, Inc., Blue Island Arts Alliance believes that "Wonderful Things Can Happen Here."

U.S. Army and Pro Football Hall of Fame Announce St. Rita High School's Nick Goldsmith as an Athlete Award Finalist

The U.S. Army and the Pro Football Hall of Fame announced the ten high school athlete finalists for the U.S. Army – Pro Football Hall of Fame – Award for Excellence. The program, announced by Pro Football Hall of Famer Shannon Sharpe at the 2012 U.S. Army All-American Bowl, highlights the achievements of student-athletes across the country.

The program which was open to all United States sophomore and junior level high school athletes focused on not only athletic achievement, but excellence in academics and community engagement.

"Athletes and Army Strong Soldiers possess a unique and similar set of strengths," said John Myers, Director of Marketing U.S. Army Marketing and Research Group. "We are excited to partner with the Pro Football Hall of Fame and to recognize these outstanding student-athletes; athletes who excel in their area of sport and who also excel academically. The most important attribute is that they are upstanding members of their communities. We look forward to joining with the ten finalists in San Antonio in January and celebrating their achievements."

The ten finalists for the Award for Excellence will be recognized with a formal ceremony at their school later this fall. Finalists include (in alphabetical order):

Peyton Aldridge, LaBrae High School, Leavittsburg, Ohio Benjamin Carpenter, C.Leon King High School, Tampa, Florida Robert Dixon, Big Beaver Falls Area High School, Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania

Andrew Henbest, Cassville High School, Cassville, Missouri Brendon Jonassaint, Okeechobee High School, Okeechobee, Floridn Nathaniel Lewis, Sacred-Heart Griffin High School, Springfield, Illinois Melissa Macon, East Bladen High School, Elizabethtown, North Carolina Hunter Morrow, Central High School, Keller, Texas Alexis Murry, Henry E. Lackey School, Indian Head, Maryland

Nicholas Goldsmith, St. Rita of Cascia High School, Chicago, Illinois

Each of the 10 finalists will travel to the 2013 U.S. Army All-American Bowl and participate in various activities. The winner of the Award for Excellence will be announced during the Bowl's formal Awards Dinner on Friday, Jan. 4, 2013.

"

Annual Evergreen Park Classic Car Show coming on Friday October 12, 2012 at Yukich Field

Farmers Market Is Open! Every Thursday at Yukich Field from 7am - 1pm until October 25.

OCS Mini-Bus is available to transport Evergreen Park residents. Call (708) 422-8776 for an appointment.

"Civil War Museum" One-Day Trip to Kenosha, WI , Wednesday, August 29. Lunch at Boat House Eatery, enjoy 10-mile round-trip journey on Electric Railroad. Depart at 7am. Cost, $82 ea. Call (708) 422-8776.

MEALS ON WHEELS PROGRAM available to Evergreen Park residents (60+ unable to prepare their own meals).

Meals delivered Mon-Fri. Call (708) 422-8776.

Recreation Department Happenings

Openings for Pre-School!4 & 5 year olds - Monday, Wednesday and Friday (PM Classes) 12:15pm-2:45pm3 year olds - Tuesday and Thursday 9am-11:30am & Monday/Wednesday/Friday afternoon classes, 12:15pm-2:45pm

Registration will be taken for children turning 3 years old, for the 2nd and 3rd sessions; children must be potty-trained.

Call the Recreation Department for more information, (708) 229-3373.

The Spring/Summer books are available at the Village Hall or Community Center; also online at www.evergreenpark-ill.com.

ADULT BOOT CAMP: Mon.Thurs, Sat, 9am-10am at Yukich Field. $50 for 10 classes. Youth Department Enrollment is now open for next fall's Sonshine Express Preschool at Jacob's Well Church, 3450 W. Maple Street. Call (708) 636-4585 or visit www.gccrc.org/sonshine_express_preschool

Youth Department The Drop-In Center is open! Our summer hours are Tuesday to Friday, 1pm -5pm from now through August 22. A variety of activities, games and social activities are available for youths from 5th grade through High School.

Call the Evergreen Park Youth Commission for additional information and opportunities. This is a safe, fun place to be! (708) 229-3377.

MHR RAIDER RUN/WALK to take place on Thursday, September 13. More information to follow.

TRYOUTS FOR E.P. ELITE GIRLS FASTPITCH will take place on the next two Saturdays 18th and 25th, at Yukich Field from 9am to 11am. For more information, call (708) 717-6510.

YOUTH DEPARTMENT has teens looking for work! Hire village teens to do yard work, clean out the attic, basement or garage. Call (708) 229-3377.

Enrollment is now open for next fall's Sonshine Express Preschool at Jacob's Well Church, 3450 W. Maple Street. Call (708) 636-4585 or visit www.gccrc.org/sonshine_express_preschool

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Ed Fenendael's Watercolor Excitement

A native of Wisconsin, Ed Fenendael began his art career over 35 years ago. He has studied at the Kansas City Art Institute and the University of Wisconsin and graduated from Marquette University.

Ed teaches watercolor and offers workshops in the United States as well as abroad. His Watercolor Excitement Workshops are for artists of all levels and are excellent learning and traveling experiences. Fenendael teaches group classes weekly from April to October in his personal studio as well as private and semiprivate lessons. His email address is wcexcitement@aol.com. Fenendael's DVD, "Painting Flowers and Foliage" (a 40 minute presentation of his personal painting technique) is available for purchase.

Browse through Ed's original art and limited edition prints. His Studio is called Morning Mist Studio at Windmill Farm, go on his website at www.WatercolorExcitement.com

Ed Fenendael is a personable artist and very unpretentious, he is well known in France and a guest artist, this year. He has a gallery there and in Kansas City, MO.

The Inn at Windmill Farm

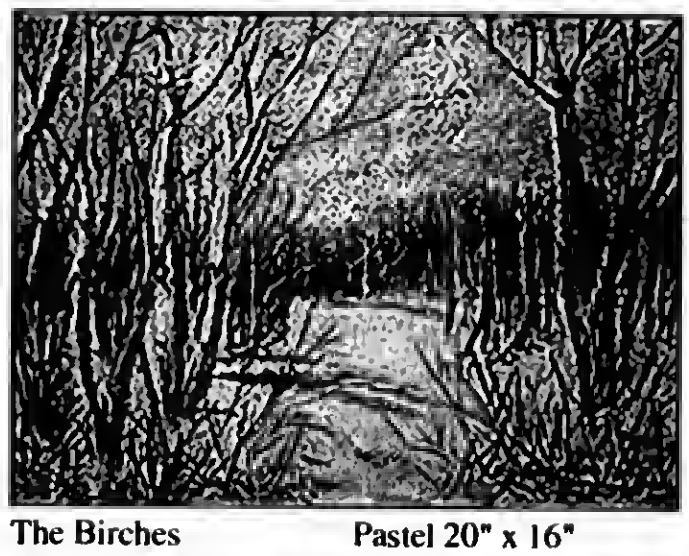
Ed Fenendael is a very gracious, humble person who understands one's needs for quiet. Staying at the Windmill Farm, I was able to enjoy two nights of peacefulness without the noise factor of a big city and yet be able to visit the places I needed to see in Door County. This out of the way Bed and Breakfast is in Baileys Harbor, Wisconsin and at the center of the Door County Peninsula.

The Inn itself is on a 5 acre farm with a nice look.

The Inn itself is on a 5 acre farm with a Dutch Roof which gives it a nice antique look. The inside of the home has the ideal farm size rooms, but what I enjoyed the house was furnished with antiques and a clean atmosphere. Another factor is that there are three bedrooms, so you don't feel overcrowded. Yes there is modern plumbing and private baths. The Inn can be seen on www.1900WindmillFarm.com or call 920-868-9282.

This page was put together by Annette Dixon with help of online paintings by Fenendael.

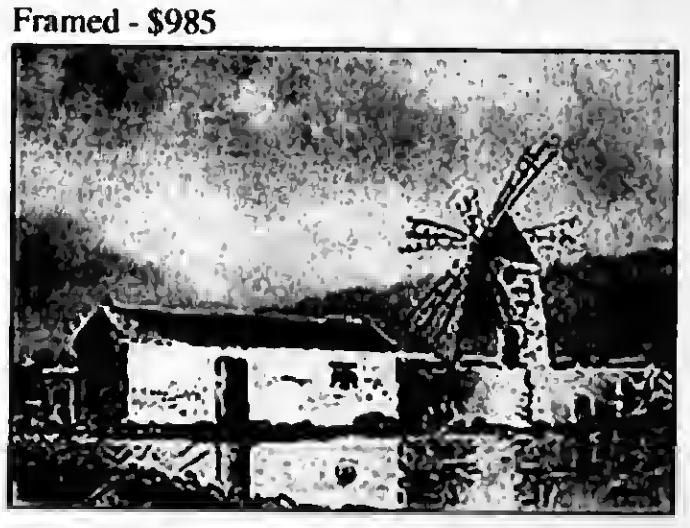
Solitude Oil 19" x 16"
Framed - $435



The Birches Pastel 20" x 16"
Framed - $485

The Lasso Watercolor 25" x 20"
Framed - $985

Simple Pleasures Watercolor/Masa 16" x 20"
Unframed - $385



The Salt Flats Watercolor/Ink 25" x 20"
Framed - $525

Lupine Antiques and Morning Mist Studio are open Friday, Sat, and Sun. 10am until 5pm mid May through mid-October and by appointment. The Inn is open year round.

Lupine Antiques encompasses most of the the barn, which houses the studio and classroom, along with the most equipped art gallery I have ever visited. This is a must for all B&B enthusiast who love art and antiques. Call 920-868-9282.

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Other Upcoming Events: Sat. Oct. 6: Fish Boil & Harvest Festival, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Sat. Oct. 27: Annual Meeting to elect Officers & Trustees

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Websites: www.vasaparkil.com and www.scandinaviandayil.com

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June Girls Bike Raffle winner Aubrey O'Neil poses with her new bike. Credit Tinley Park-Park District.

Local Mini Golf Course Giving Away New Wheels

Tinley Junction Mini Golf and Batting Cages giving away 10 bicycles in 2012

The Tinley Park-Park District and Bettenhausen Automotive have teamed up to give away an unprecedented 10 children's bicycles during the 2012 Tinley Junction season. Children ages 12 and under who play a paid round of miniature golf during from now through September 9 will be entered in to a raffle for the month they play the round of golf. At the end of the month, a Tinley Junction employee will draw one boy and one girl at random who will win a brand new bike.

With just about a month left in Tinley Junction's 2012 season, there is still time to enter one of the final two drawings this year: the August drawing, which is open to children who play a round of golf in the month of August, and the final September drawing, which will include all the previous month's raffles that were not winning tickets.

The 2012 Tinley Junction Mini Golf Bike Raffle is sponsored by Bettenhausen Automotive. The drawings for May, June and July have already been pulled. Only children ages 12 and under who play a paid round of golf are eligible. Entry period ends on Sunday, September 9, 2012. Bikes cannot be exchanged for cash.

About the Tinley Park-Park District

The Tinley Park-Park District maintains over 420 acres of park lands and recreation facilities including its state-of-the-art Bettenhausen Recreation Center, Tinley Fitness, a full-service fitness center, and 40 community park locations. The Tinley Park-Park District was established in 1967.

From the desk of Robert E. Maloney Palos Township Assessor

We wish to inform the residents of Palos Township that the time period to file a property assessment appeal application will be from August 20, 2012 to September 18, 2012.

Palos Township is located at 10802 S Roberts Rd., Palos Hills. We are open Monday through Friday, 8:30A.M. to 4:30P.M. For more information, please call 708-598-4418.

PLEASE NOTE: Property tax increases are directly related to the amount of money local taxing bodies request for spending. Therefore, even in a declining market, tax bills will not go down unless taxing bodies reduce spending.

Southwest Chicago Christian School is holding a Fall/ Winter clothing resale show

Southwest Chicago Christian School is holding a Fall/Winter Children's Clothing and Equipment Resale on *Saturday, October 6* from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon in the gym at their Oak Lawn campus 5665 West 101st Street.

Interested sellers may register at the Oak Lawn campus on *Tuesday, September 4* from 5:00-6:45 and at the Tinley Park campus 17171 S. 84th Ave. on *Tuesday, September 11* from 5:00-6:45 p.m.

The seller's fee is $8. Phone registration will be held September 12-19, with a registration fee of $12. Space is limited! Call the school office at 636-8550 to find out how to register by phone.

The seller will receive 70% of their profit; the school receives the other 30%. The sale will be cash only. No children or baskets/bags will be allowed into the sale.

Stickney Township presents a presentation for family caregivers

Education Program for Family Caregivers On six consecutive Monday's, beginning September 10, 2012, Stickney Township Office on Aging will present the Powerful Tools for Caregivers program from 10:00 to 12:30 at the Stickney Township North Medical Center located at 6721 W. 40th St. in Stickney. "Powerful Tools for Caregivers, a six-week educational program, will be presented by Stickney Township Office on Aging in partnership with Solutions for Care" said Louis S. Viverito, Stickney Township Supervisor. "The program is designed to help family caregivers take care of themselves while caring for a relative or friend. Participants will benefit from this class whether they are assisting with the care of a parent, spouse, or friend who lives at home, in a nursing home, or across the country."

This program is intended for nonprofessional caregivers. Powerful Tools for Caregivers was developed by Legacy Caregiver Services in Portland, OR, and has been shown to reduce caregiver guilt, anger, and depression; improve caregiver self-care and communication skills' and increase community service use.

To register for this program please call (708) 636-8850. Stickney Township Office on Aging has been servicing the communities of Burbank, Stickney, Forest View, Central Stickney and Nottingham for over 100 years.

Stickney Township offers a variety of services and program for caregivers and their family members. For further information please call (708) 636-8850 www.townhipofstickney.org.

Important must read! Job Fair

JOB FAIR Friday, August 24, 10:00 a.m. until Noon at The Sabre Room 8900 W. 95th Street, Hickory Hills.

Job seekers can meet with four dozen area businesses that are currently hiring and that represent a broad array of industries.

Attending employers include BNSF Railway, Advocate Christ Medical Center, Standard Bank & Trust, AT&T, Walgreens, Hoist Liftruck, Electro-Motive Diesel, the CTA, CITGO, Lemont Refining, Securitas, and many more.

For more information call 312-886-0481.

Give us your comments about the Job Fair! Go to www.villageviewls.weebly.com

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"Mowimy po polsku!"

Three weeks left to view A Steady Rain featuring the original cast and crew

The Chicago Commereial Collective is proud to announce the return of the Chicago and Broadway hit drama, A Steady Rain, with its original cast and crew to the Chicago Dramatists, 1105 W. Chicago Ave.

The production, written by Keith Huff and directed by original director Russ Tutterow, runs through Sunday, Sept. 2. The run is Wednesdays and Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Friday and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 and 7 p.m.Tickets are on sale now and are $45 and may be purchased online at www.asteadyrainchicago.com. A special discounted ticket price of $25 is available for police officers, firefighters and other city employees throughout the run. Student and group discounts are also available.

A Steady Rain received its world premiere at the Chicago Dramatists in fall 2007 and was an instant hit. The production ran for six weeks before moving to the Royal George Theatre for a four-month run and then opened on Broadway starring Hugh Jackman and Daniel Craig in September 2009.

Few other productions in recent Chicago history have garnered the rave reviews as A Steady Rain. In Chicago, the production won the 2008 Joseph Jefferson Awards for "Best New Work," "Best Actor" (for Randy Steinmeyer) and "Best Production." A Steady Rain's New York adaptation broke box office records for highest weekly gross of a nonmusical production on Broadway and was included in Time magazine's "Top 10 Plays of 2009."

A Steady Rain is the story of two seasoned police officers, Denny (Randy Steinmeyer) and Joey (Peter DeFaria) who find themselves caught up in a conflict between family and duty also find themselves in a heap of trouble with their Police Captain. Denny is falling into a trap of his own making and Joey does a reverse, he actually matures through the turmoil of life's circumstances. If you know policemen, it's sometimes part of the problems that one inherits on the job, as a detective or beat officer.

The design team for A Steady Rain includes set designer Tom Burch, lighting designer Jeff Pines, costume designer Samantha Jones, sound designer Mike Tutaj, and stage manager Wendye Clarendon.

Keith Huff is currently writer/producer for the upcoming David Fincher/NetFlix series House of Cards, featuring Kevin Spacey and Robin Wright. He has written the film adaptation of A Steady Rain for Barbara Broccoli and Michael G. Wilson (EON Films), original pilots for HBO, Steven Spielberg/Dreamworks TV, and AMC, and was Writer/Co-Producer for season 4 of AMC's Emmy- and Golden Globe Award-winning series Mad Men, for which he won a 2011 Writers Guild Award (Best Drama Series). Recent theater productions include The Detective's Wife (Writer's Theater), A Steady Rain featuring Daniel Craig and Hugh Jackman (Broadway), and Pursued By Happiness and The Bird and Mr. Banks (Road Theater). Award, the Cunningham Prize, the John Gassner Award, the Berrilla Kerr Award, and three Illinois Arts Council Playwriting Fellowships.

Russ Tutterow has nurtured the art and careers of countless playwrights at Chicago Dramatists, where he has been artistic director since 1986. To honor his 25th year as Artistic Director and his contribution to the cultural life of Chicago, May Street (adjacent to Chicago Dramatists) was recently proclaimed "Russ Tutterow Way" by the City of Chicago. Tutterow also has directed, managed or taught for such Chicago theatres as Goodman, Victory Gardens, Royal George, Mercury, Briar Street, Prop, Zebra Crossing, Igloo, and Cullen, Henaghan & Platt Productions, as well as Café LaMama Hollywood and served on the 2005 First Look Council at Steppenwolf Theatre. Tutterow has held positions as adjunct associate professor of theatre at the University of Wisconsin and director of theatre at Lake Forest College. He holds an M.A. in Theatre from Northwestern University and a B.A. in Theatre from Ball State University.

ABOUT CHICAGO COMMERCIAL COLLECTIVE

This is the first production for the Chicago Commereial Collective, a new company focused on producing Chicago theater of incredible quality and commercial appeal and fostering a new age among Chicago's mid-sized commercial theaters. The company is a partnership between Brian Loevner, Aurelia Fisher and Monty Cole.

Brian Loevner is a theatre manager, producer, production manager and arts educator. Since 2004, Loevner has served as the managing director of Chicago Dramatists. He has produced and production managed more than 90 shows with companies such as Famous Door Theatre, Timeline Theatre, Collaboraction, Chicago Dramatists and The Actor's Gymnasium. He also sits on the Executive Committee of Board of Directors of The League Of Chicago Theatres.

Further, he has worked as a nonprofit consultant, assisting small non-profits with board management and recruitment and setting up accounting and office systems. He attended Virginia Tech University and George Mason University where he majored in Theatre Arts with a focus on Arts Management.

Aurélia K. Fisher is a theatre producer and a consultant to non- profit administrators. She recently received a Master of Fine Arts in theater management from Yale School of Drama. Since her move to Chicago, Fisher has worked with About Face Theatre, Chicago Dramatists, The Music Theatre Company, OnStage in America and Lifeline Theater. While at Yale, she worked as the managing director for the Yale Cabaret, producing 20 shows in 28 weeks. Prior to her time at Yale, she worked as the technical archivist at The Metropolitan Opera in New York City. During her time in New York City, Fisher founded Pig Brooch, an ensemble theatre company. She is also a member of the Young Nonprofit Professionals Network.

Monty Cole is a producer, actor and arts educator from the Chicagoland area. Monty founded Fireseed Theatre Company, a non- profit performance ensemble, for which he served as artistic director in 2007. In the summer of 2010, he served on the faculty at the National High School Institute at Northwestern University where he was one of ten young people chosen to teach at this prestigious summer program.

In the past, Cole has worked with Lookingglass, The House Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, the Royal George Theater, as well as Victory Gardens, in the Kemper Arts Management position.

Cole holds a bachelor's degree in acting and arts management from Emerson College in Boston, MA.

Mary Fishman, a parishioner of St. Walters Church, 11741 South Western Avenue is the producer and director of a documentary film making its World Premiere at The Siskel Film Center in Chicago. It is titled...

BAND OF SISTERS

The work of two nuns outside a Chicago-area deportation center serves as an introduction to the tumultuous and engaged world of American Catholic nuns in the fifty years following Vatican II. From sheltered "daughters of the church" once swathed in medieval dress to activists on the front lines of causes for social justice, BAND OF SISTERS follows the journey of these religious women in their work for civil rights, immigration reform, and a host of other causes. Becoming increasingly relevant and visible in aid of the poor and disenfranchised, the sisters now increasingly find themselves on a collision course with the conservative elements in their own church. Information taken from website www.siskelfilmcenter.org

Check out the video, the Sisters from the Mercy Order are in the film. You may know some of them. Opening night is Friday, September 14th at 8:00pm, Saturday, September 15th, 8:00pm, Monday, September 17, 8:00pm, Wednesday, September 19th, 6:15pm, Thursday, September 20, 8:15. Tickets are $11.00 on line.

Producer and Director Mary Fishman will be present for audience discussion on Friday, Saturday, Monday, and Thursday. Information regarding the Gene Siskel Film Center is the address of 164 North State Street, Chicago, IL, phone number 312-846-2600. The Prices are $11 general admission, $7 students prices (ages include 6-17), Film Center member $6, Art Institute employees, students and faculty $4.

Exercise Classes, Fitness Centers, Racquet's Ball and Tennis Courts, Weight Centers, Gyms, Health Food, Work out Centers, call Linda for advertising specials, at 312-624-8996.

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Duck Focaccia Pizza is easy to prepare and can make any meal memorable.

Easy Duck Focaccia Pizza-A Meal To Remember

(NAPSA)-Here's food for thought:_You can add a touch of creative pizzazz to your next get- together when you serve a delicious Italian specialty: Duck Focaccia Pizza. It's a meal that's simple, original and will make any occasion a memorable one-and making this recipe can be almost as easy as calling for delivery.

Duck Focaccia Pizza
(Serves 6, one pizza per person)

1 Maple Leaf Farms Roast Half Duck, thawed
6 prepared focaccia rounds, 7-9" diameter (or any premade pizza dough)
18 oz. sun-dried tomato marinara sauce (or pizza sauce)
12 oz. sun-dried tomatoes
16 oz. provolone cheese, sliced
6 oz. roasted garlic cloves, sliced
3 oz. fresh rosemary sprigs

Debone and shred thawed duck. Spread sauce on focaccia. Top with sun-dried tomatoes, duck and roasted garlic. Then fan slices of provolone cheese over the top. Sprinkle with rosemary sprigs. Place on pizza stone or sheet pan and bake at 400° F for 13-15 minutes or until cheese is golden brown.

Why Duck?

The distinctive taste of duck makes for a marvelous complement to the robust flavors of sun-dried tomatoes and roasted garlic.

Duck is also a healthful and nutritious alternative to other meats. All the fat is in the skin layer, not in the meat. Remove the skin and the fat is gone. According to the USDA, boneless, skinless duck breast has less fat and calories than boneless, skinless chicken breast.

This pizza is prepared with White Pekin duck so you can enjoy the poultry's unique qualities. Farm raised, this breed of duck offers a succulent and tasty flavor-not gamy as other breeds of duck may be. Plus, Maple Leaf Farms Roast Half Duck is fully cooked, tender and juicy, so all you have to do is thaw it.

Bread For Ease

Because the recipe uses focaccia bread, there's no messy time-consuming dough to worry about.

Where To Get It

You may find Roast Half Duck in the freezer section of your grocer or you can find it online at www.mapleleaffarms.com.

Learn More

For additional information, call (800) 348-2812.

Tips On Getting A Great Start To The Day

Experts say children who eat breakfast perform better in the classroom and on the playground.

(NAPSA)-As children return to school, it's important to start their day with a nutritious breakfast to help them succeed.

According to the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, children who eat breakfast perform better in the classroom and on the playground, with better concentration, problem-solving skills and eye-hand coordination. Also, kids who skip breakfast get sleepy at school and tend to eat more junk food later in the day.

Healthy Morning Options

Making your busy mornings healthier can be as easy as opening your freezer or refrigerator door, say the experts at the National Frozen and Refrigerated Foods Association.

Frozen and refrigerated foods are quick and easy, tasty and nutritious and can help you and your family start the day in a very good way. Even if you think you don't have time to eat breakfast, here are some quick and healthy options to consider:

• Fill toasted waffles with peanut butter and jam for a unique breakfast sandwich.

• Create a yogurt parfait by layering your favorite yogurt, fruits and granola.

• Make a tasty shredded cheese and veggie omelet and serve with precooked turkey sausage.

• Top pancakes with bananas, drizzle with chocolate syrup and serve with a glass of skim milk.

• Mix nonfat yogurt, frozen berries, skim milk, juice and bananas for a delicious smoothie.

• For quick grab-and-go meals, have readily available string cheese, a variety of yogurts, a selection of fruit juices, and breakfast sandwiches that are ready to heat and eat in minutes.

For an easy, healthy breakfast treat, try this waffle recipe to get your family off to a great day.

A Perfectly Healthy Breakfast

Whole-grain frozen waffles
Maple syrup
Bananas, sliced
Strawberries, sliced
Blueberries
Orange juice

Toast waffles as directed and top with syrup and fruit. Serve with orange juice.

For more tasty recipes and information on frozen and refrigerated foods, visit www.EasyHomeMeals.com, and on Facebook, "like" www.facebook.com/EasyHomeMeals.

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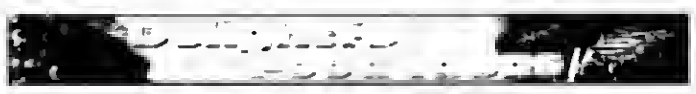

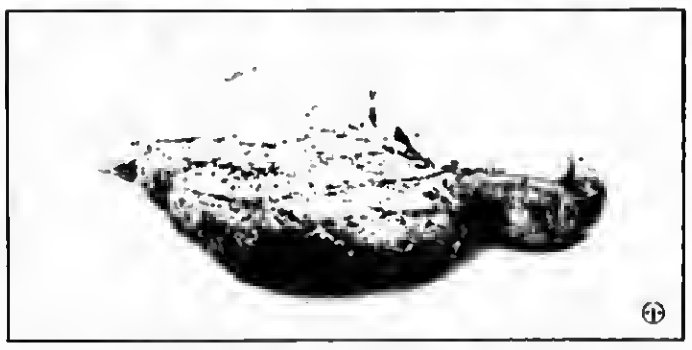

You don't have to skimp on steak when you enjoy it with lighter fare such as a salad.

Full Flavor Without The Full Figure: Savor Steak With A Lighter Twist Tonight

(NAPSA)-Just because you're watching your waistline doesn't mean you have to skip all your favorites. Pair tender grilled steak with a crisp salad for a meal you'll love that you can feel good about. Consider these easy and tasty options for enjoying steak with a lighter twist.

"One of the easiest changes to make is limiting those hidden calories that can often be found in dressings," said Maureen Rose Doran, RD, LD, nutritionist. "Flavor can and should come from the great taste of grilled meats and fresh, ripe vegetables. Dressings and cheeses should be used sparingly to add just the right amount of zest."

Doran "loves" the new Rancher's Select(r) Sirloin now offered every night at all Buffets, Inc. restaurants, especially when paired with the salad choices offered by the chain. "Whether you want a juicy steak and a side salad or a fresh garden creation flavored with delicious steak tips, you make it just how you like it," said Doran. She offers some of her favorite ways of keeping it light but flavorful:

Garden Variety Steak Salad

Plate up a colorful salad creation with two cups of tossed salad greens (10 calories) with a healthy serving of vegetables including six cherry tomatoes (30 calories), six slices of cucumbers (12 calories), four slices of green pepper rings (8 calories), 10 grams of broccoli (5 calories), 10 grams of sliced mushrooms (4 calories) and five grams of sunflower seeds (35 calories). Top with three ounces of juicy sliced grilled steak (180 calories) and toss with one ounce of a fat-free raspberry vinaigrette (35 calories): 319 total calories.

Southwest Steak Salad

Give your grilled steak a kick of flavor by pairing three ounces of sliced grilled steak (180 calories) with a Southwest salad featuring two cups of spring mix greens (10 calories), 15 grams of corn (10 calories), three red onion rings (6 calories), 10 grams of sliced mushrooms (10 calories), 20 grams of feta cheese (55 calories), and one ounce of a fat-free Ranch dressing (30 calories): 301 total calories.

Great Steak Caesar Salad

Tell chicken to step to the side with this classic salad. Pair three ounces of thinly sliced grilled steak (180 calories) with two cups of chopped romaine lettuce (10 calories), 15 grams of diced eggs (20 calories), a handful of croutons (35 calories), seven grams of Parmesan cheese (30 calories) and an ounce of Caesar dressing (60 calories): 335 total calories.

No time to heat up the grill? Visit your local Buffets, Inc. restaurant to enjoy steak and salad your way. Start at the salad bar to create your own delicious combination of fresh greens and garden favorites, then head to the carving station where a grillmaster will serve your steak to order, whether you like it medium rare or well done.

Buffets restaurants now serve Rancher's Select(r) Sirloin, a high quality and tender steak, every day during dinner hours.

For more information, visit www.hometownbuffet.com, www.oldcountrybuffet.com, www.countrybuffet.com, www.ryans.com, www.grannysbuffet.com and www.firemountainbuffet.com.

Entertaining Ideas

Essential Party-Planning Tips

(NAPSA)-Whether you're planning a backyard get-together or celebrating a special summer occasion, a few easy-to-follow tips can help make your party simply spectacular.

1. Make a list: Create a party prep list the week before your event. Pick up all ingredients, food, beverages, tableware, decorations and so on one to two days prior, so you can avoid last-minute trips to the store.

2. Showcase your own go-to recipes: Rely on simple yet tried-and-true crowd-pleasers. Everyone has a signature dish-it's time to show off yours!

3. Take shortcuts: You can cut down prep time and still offer guests unique dishes by adding your own twist on ready-made salsas and dips.

4. Match the foods you serve with your guests' tastes:

• If you are expecting a chatty group, stock up on Tostitos Scoops! tortilla chips so guests can dip and socialize all party long.

• Thrill the guys by serving snacks that taste like foods they already love, like the new Smokehouse Style BBQ flavored Ruffles potato chips.

5. Consider this great-tasting dip by Chef Stephen Kalil, Frito-Lay executive chef and a seasoned professional who's accustomed to prepping for parties:

Tostitos Salsa
Five Finger Shrimp Ceviche

1 (15.5-oz.) jar of Tostitos All-Natural Chunky Salsa
1/2 cup cucumber (peeled, seeded and diced)
1 Tbsp. chopped cilantro
1/2 lime, juiced
1 cup shrimp (cooked, peeled, diced into bite-size pieces)

Pour Tostitos All-Natural Chunky Salsa into a large bowl. Add in 1 cup of cooked, peeled and diced shrimp. Add in 1/2 cup cucumber. Squeeze in the juice of half a lime. Fold in 1 Tbsp. chopped cilantro. Mix contents and transfer to serving bowl(s). (Prep time: 15 minutes. Cook time: 5 minutes. Servings: 20.)

Learn More

For more information, recipes and cooking tips, you can go to www.fritolay.com/recipes.

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SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 39 | Number 5 | September 4, 2012

Burbank, Evergreen Park, Hickory Hills, Justice, Oak Lawn

(L-R) Lauren May (left) and Derek Sefcik were recently appointed to serve as dean of students for the 2012-13 school year.

OLCHS welcomes two new deans

Oak Lawn Community High School recently appointed two new dean of students for the 2012-2013 school year: Lauren May and Derek Sefcik. Lauren May has taught for thirteen years in the English department and has served as the school's data coordinator for two years. May also served as the school's scholastic bowl coach and newspaper adviser. Derek Sefcik has taught for six years as a teacher in the Business Education Department. Sefcik coached baseball and track/field, and currently coaches football. May and Sefcik filled the vacancy created when Kathleen Murphy was promoted to Student Services Director and Kevin Walery was promoted to Athletic Director. Lauren May said, "I'm looking forward to having a positive school-wide impact."

Justice Trustee casts a confusing vote

by Jan Glaz

On August 17th at the Village of Justice President and Board of Trustees Meeting Trustee Kinga Bartoszek made a motion which read: To approve payment in the amount of $33,059.00 from TIF #4 funds to the Justice Park District for capital improvements contracted by the district to enhance the Justice Veteran's Memorial including footings, flagpoles, sidewalks, fencing, lighting and landscaping, but before the board could cast their votes, Trustee Ed Rusch Jr. interrupted to voice his concern. Rush stated that he could find no documentation that the board took a 'formal' vote to extend TIF funds to the park district. He emphasized that there is $33,000 of TIF funds spent without authority on the books to spend it. Trustee Bartoszek corrected Rusch by stating that the village hasn't spent anything, the park district is spending the money and asking for reimbursement, so it's up to the board, to decide if it's willing to authorize spending of village funds to reimburse the park district.

Mayor Kris Wasowicz commented that he understood Rusch's feelings but in this regard he was not right. Rusch said, "I disagree, I think this was set in motion long before this board was seated." That said, Trustee Rusch voted yes, and the motion carried. A confused resident questioned Rusch on why he voted positive instead of negative, if he felt it shouldn't pass. Rusch responded that it was a tough choice, but if it was committed by a prior board, and he had no documentation to prove that, then by saying no; it doesn't serve a purpose. "For me, personally, it was a tough choice," Rusch concluded.

Police Chief Robert Gedville very proudly presented Deputy Chief Michael Kurschner with a Service Award for achieving 20 Years of Dedicated Service to the Village of Justice Police Department. Deputy Chief Kurschner graduated from Argo High School and by age 22/23 he joined the Justice Police Department where he spent several years as a patrolman. He then teamed up with Gedville as a tactical plain clothes officer for another few years. Afterward, he was promoted to Corporal with duties that included part time patrol supervisor. Several years later he became a Sargent, serving in excess of 5 years before being promoted to Lieutenant. When Gedville became Police Chief he recommended him as his Deputy Chief.

Approved prior to adjournment: A home occupation License of Business Ally, doing business at 7230 Bradford Court, a marketing firm working by telephone and computer; a donation from Special Events to the I&M Canal National Corridor Civic Center Authority Rendezvous in the amount of $250.00, for the Des Plaines Valley "Rendezvous" School Day.

Oak Lawn approves changes to Roberts Rules of Order

by Matt Mayer

The village board at a recent Board of Trustees meeting approved an additional amendment regarding changes to the Roberts Rules of Order to the municipal code in an effort to restrain unnecessary arguing ,and make the meetings run more smoothly. Roberts Rules of Order authored by Henry Martyn Robert is a pocket manual of rules of order for deliberative assemblies, which dates back to February 1876. The newly revised eleventh edition was published in 2011. Additional information regarding Roberts Rules of Order may be obtained from the Roberts Rules website www.robertsrules.com/.

Mayor Dave Heilmann proposed that the changes be incorporated into the village code at last months meeting. Heilmann said that 95 percent of the language in his proposals was taken from Roberts Rules, which a number of municipalities as well as Oak Lawn follows. The amendment however didn't pass without objection from trustees and residents. Sandra Bury, a business owner and resident, called the proposal "Dave's Rules". "Roberts Rules" are already in our code, said Bury. "Dave's rules are trying to censor the minority on the board. It's really a violation of democracy. Please take Dave's rules and file them away some where for a long time" said Bury. Resident Andy Skoundrianos blamed Heilmann for losing control of the meetings and said additional rules were unnecessary. "I don't think you need to change the code," said Skoundrianos.

Political board opponents were especially disturbed by the rule that prevents board members from placing any matter designed for any obstructive or improper purpose. The rule states that whenever the chair becomes convinced that one or more members are using parliamentary forms or items on the agenda for obstructive purposes, the chair should either rule such motions out of order or not recognize those members. Trustee Tom Phelan said, "The rule was chilling. It gives Heilmann the authority to prevent an item from being added on the agenda. The rule is most troublesome since we have to have vigorous debates about issues and ideas. This is not a court of law- we all have to agree," said Phelan. But Heilmann said, "The rules are not designed to prevent trustees from speaking. I don't want to stop anyone, that's not my goal". The amendment passed 4-3 with Heilmann casting the deciding vote. Trustees Phelan, Duhig and Olejniczak dissented.

Hickory Hills approves new businesses

by Jan Glaz

Everyone who attended the Hickory Hills City Council Meeting on August 23rd was invited for Pizza by Kenootz Pizza, a 24 year veteran of award winning pizza. After the 'Open to the Public' portion of the meeting, where owner Eric Woodall had introdueed himself and his new Hickory Hills business located at 8609 W. 95th Street, 708-599-0005. Mayor Howley announced a 'Pizza Break'.

Consent to Assignment and Assumption Agreement with Waste Management was finalized as Waste Management bought out Land of Lakes on August 1, 2012. At a previous meeting Waste Management promised to deliver the same high standard of service Hickory Hills experienced with Land of Lakes.

Alderman Brian Waight announced a list of new businesses locating in Hickory Hills: Southside Stallions School of Wrestling , 9831 S. 78th Avenue Unit E. James Gahagan, 773-517-6964; Clark Financial Services, 7667 W. 95th Street. Tim Clark, 708-424-4100; Roberts Roadhouse, 9090 Roberts Road, Kevin Sherry & John Boyle, 708-642-8531.

Do you own a Business? Before the meeting adjourned Alderman McAvoy announced the annual Hills Chamber Golf Outing to be held on Wednesday September 19th at the Palos Golf Course, 7301 W. 105th Street, Palos Hills, Il. The complete package price for 9 holes of golf, gift bag, golf cart, dinner and a free chance to win a flat screen TV is $70.00. Tee Times start at noon, for more information or to reserve a tee time call Donna Venezia at 708-364-7739.

Village View

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FAR SOUTH EDITION

Volume 10 | Number 17 | September 4 , 2012

Oak Forest, Orland Park, Tinley Park

Orland Park and Orland Township plan to share Canine Playground

by Jan Glaz

An Intergovernmental agreement between the Village of Orland Park, Cook and Will Counties, Illinois, and Orland Township, Cook County, Illinois, providing for the sharing of costs estimated at $182,761.00 to construct a dog park within the village's Centennial Park was approved at the Village of Orland Park Board of Trustees Meeting on August 20th.

The Village and Township both recognized that it would be beneficial for the community to have a designated area to exercise their canine pets and so agreed to share the cost. The intergovernmental agreement provides for the Village to advance the project and be reimbursed by the Township 50% of the total cost up to but not in excess of $100,000.

This partnership between the Village and the Township will accelerate the completion of the Dog Park project more rapidly, as the Village originally contemplated phasing in the development over several years. Township residents will have the same access to the dog park as village residents.

Refunding Bonds Bonanza: An Ordinance to provide for the Issuance for General Obligation Refunding Bonds, met with full board approval. The Village's financial advisor, Speer Financial, Inc., had recently advised village staff of a potential refunding opportunity on the Village's outstanding General Obligation Bonds - Series 2006.

The 2006 bonds were issued to partially fund construction of the police facility at 151st & Ravinia Avenue. Decreased future interest costs on the refunding bonds will equate to a lower debt service levy in future years.

The estimated net present value savings to be realized by selling $9.2 million worth of refunding bonds was estimated at $657,000, or 7.127% of refunding principal, net of all issuance costs. However, the total amount of savings came in at around $800,000 as Janney Montgomery Scott LLC from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, one of eight bidders, won the bid.

A factor in the sale was an excellent bond rating: Two rating agencies, Moody's and S & P have reaffirmed the Village's bond rating for this issuance. The Village's rating with Moody's is Aa1 and with S & P is AA+.

Final Note: St. Michael's request for a license to sell raffle tickets during their St. Michael's Fall Fest beginning Thursday, September 20, through Sunday, September 23rd, in the St. Michael's parking lot was granted. The not to be missed event will benefit St. Michael's Church, the raffle drawing will be on Sunday the 23rd of September at 7:00 p.m.

Smith Senior Living names Kevin McGee CEO

Kevin McGee, 38, has been named chief executive officer of Smith Senior Living, according to Robert A. Berghoff, chair of the board of trustees. He replaces Michael A.

Flynn, who became chief financial officer of Friendship Village in Schaumburg. The not-for-profit organization with an annual operating budget of $34 million sponsors Smith Crossing in Orland Park, Ill., and Smith Village in Chicago's Beverly neighborhood, which are continuing care retirement communities (CCRCs), providing a vibrant lifestyle. Both campuses also offer apartments and a continuum of care for those needing more aid in assisted living, memory support and skilled nursing care, as well as rehab services.

McGee most recently served as executive director of Smith Village for five years and, prior to that, executive director of Smith Crossing for three years. "During the time Kevin has been with Smith Senior Living, our trustees have come to appreciate his qualities of compassion and leadership. His proven abilities in building strongs teams and his genuine caring for our residents made him the ideal candidate for this position," says Berghoff. "He truly understands the communities we serve because he was raised in Orland Park and now lives with his family in Chicago's Beverly neighborhood."

McGee is taking the top leadership role at a time when Smith Senior Living has completed major building and expansion programs during the last decade totaling more than $134 million.

"I'm honored by the board's vote of confidence," says McGee. "I look forward to working closely with our trustees, residents and their families. I am also very proud of the thoughtful, professional care our staff delivers."

In November 2004, as executive director of the organization's first CCRC, McGee successfully led the opening of Smith Crossing. With a major expansion to be completed in October 2012, Smith Crossing's number of residences will total 281 providing a continuum of lifestyles, programs and healthcare.

Since June 2007, McGee served as executive director of Smith Village, the site of the organization's first retirement community established in 1924.

An Illinois licensed nursing home administrator, McGee earned an M.B.A. in healthcare administration and graduated with honors in 2003 from Saint Xavier University. He also graduated magna cum laude with a master's degree in gerontology from Eastern Illinois University in 1997, where a year earlier he received his bachelor's degree in sociology.

McGee is married to Moira McQuillan McGee, M.D., on staff at Little Company of Mary Hospital in Evergreen Park. They are raising their three children.

Oak Forest Police are authorized to seize and impound vehicles

by Jan Glaz

If you drive around the streets of Oak Forest with your stereos too loud you risk having your vehicle seized and impounded. Alderman Simon was adamant that an ordinance amending sections of the Oak Forest Municipal Code relating to Vehicle Seizure and Impoundment pass board approval on Tuesday, August 28th, at the Oak Forest City Council Meeting. Alderman Daniel Ensign questioned Alderman Simon and the ordinance's right to seize and impound a vehicle for such an offence since according to the State of Illinois a loud vehicle is viewed as a petty crime, and only subject to a fine. Ensign emphasized the fact that passing this ordinance gives the city the ability to take a vehicle away and even sell it at auction because their stereo was too loud, the same punishment and procedure as a felony or misdemeanor. Ensign favored increasing the fine as opposed to seizure and impounding. "I just want the ordinance passed," Simon shouted.

Police Chief Anderson confirmed that impoundment would require posting a $500 bond, the same as it does for driving with a license suspended, DUI, and other criminal acts. Once bond is posted, the vehicle is immediately released and the person can consider a hearing or they can consider the $500 as a fine, and not appear at a hearing: The ordinance passed 5 to 6. Alderman Ensign voted no.

Great News: A letter of understanding was approved between the City of Oak Forest and County of Cook regarding the cost of installation of sidewalks along 151st Street near Jack Hille Middle School, Forest Ridge District 142. City Administrator, Troy Ishler, provided the details: Due to 3 children being struck by vehicles in the area, and Mayor Kuspa's request, the City of Oak Forest stepped in to assist the school district with their, over three year, plea to Cook County for installation of a traffic signal in front of the Jack Hille School. Cook County agreed.

A temporary signal is now in place and will be replaced in the spring with a new modern signal. Cost distribution is as follows: Cook County would be responsible for $250,000 of the stoplight cost and the City of Oak Forest and Forest Ridge School District 142 would share the rest of the approximately $72,000. The cities share is about $37,000 and the school district around $12,000. This cost is for the sidewalk and the related drainage structures that go along with sidewalks. It was noted that the traffic signal will stay primarily green and it will have a signal button, for walkers. One other sidewalk Ordinance met with board approval before adjournment. An Ordinance accepting a Grant of Easement from Acorn Public Library for the purpose of constructing a sidewalk along Central Avenue.

Village View

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SOUTH SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 13 | Number 17 | September 4, 2012

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

Waste Management acquires Land and Lakes

by Matt Mayer

In a telephone conversation regarding a recent Chicago Ridge Board of Trustees meeting. officials announced that Waste Management acquired Land and Lakes. the village waste hauler. The acquisition occurred during the second year of a five-year contract. Waste Management will be the waste hauler for the remaining period of the contract. Residents will receive the current collection rate and the waste collection and recycling pickup route schedules will remain the same at the current Land and Lakes collection rate.

Other highlights: Prior to the commencement of the meeting, a second public hearing was held regarding electrical aggregation. This is the second required step in order for the village to hire an energy broker. The board approved Illinois Energy Aggregation (IEA) at the February 14 Board of Trustees meeting as the village electrical aggregator. if the referendum passed on March 20 primary ballot.

Dennis Brennan. attorney and principle for IEA. said Illinois statute requires each municipality to adopt an electrical aggregation plan. "We will go over the rates and present the savings to the residents at the next board meeting. The proposed plan is slated to he approximately one half the ComEd rate. which is expected to increase in October. said Brennan.

Other highlights: Village Engineer Chris Burke said the two locations for the proposed speed humps have been selected. They will be installed at 10417 and 10612 Oak Park Avenue. A police department request for the police chief to attend the International Association of Police Chiefs Conference was approved as well as a contract with Alsterda. the low hidder for the water main project on O'Connell Drive. A block party request for 107th and Austin Avenue was also approved.

Palos Heights to review library documents

by Matt Mayer

The Palos Heights City Council at the Aug 21 meeting approved a retainer fee increase of $5.000 to the law finn Mahoney Silverman and Cross to review library documents and provide a legal option regarding the library's request to use additional money from the library reserve fund in order to reduce a portion of their debt, which is still outstanding for the library's rebuilding project. Since July the library has sought to persuade the library board to use some $2 million of the reserves to reduce their bond debt to be a real estate cost savings. However officials contend that the library has some $4 million in accumulated reserves.

Other highlights: The city council approved a resolution designating Daniel Nisavic as the delegate and Kathy Jirik as the alternate delegate to the Intergovernmental Risk Management Agency as well as a addendum to the PCS site agreement between the city and SprintCom. Inc for the rehabilitation and painting of the city's water tower at 12841 Golf View Lane in the Westgate subdivision. A request to grant permission to Mel Diab. regarding "Running for Kicks", to organize the 2013 First Midwest Bank Half Marathon with the same stipulations and support, which was received last year along with an agreement that the city would be reimbursed $8,250.00 and Lake Catherine would receive a $5.000 charitable contribution was also approved.

A request from the Director of Parks and Recreation to advertise for bids for Community Park improvements upon review of the final layout for the Frisbee Golf Course was approved as well as a request to donate the old playground equipment from the Community Park to Kids Around the World, Inc. a non- profit organization pending the city attorney reviewing the document agreement. A request to pay Brothers Asphalt Paving. Inc $211.005.62 for the 2012 road program with a 10 percent retainer of the contract price was also approved.

USDA celebrates the start of a healthier school year for America's Kids

New Standards Ensure Students are Offered Healthier, More Nutritious Foods in the Lunch Line

Agriculture Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services Kevin Concannon today announced that America's students will see healthier and more nutritions foods in the cafeteria as they return to school this year. The new nutrition standards for school meals. implemented as a result of the historic Healthy. Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, will help to combat child hunger and obesity and improve the health and nutrition of the nation's children.

"Improving the nutrition of school meals is an important investment in the future of America's children," said Concannon. "We know that healthy food plays a vital role in strengthening a child's body and mind and the healthier school meals will help to ensure our children can learn. grow. and reach their full potential."

Starting this school year, schools will phase in the nutrition standards over a three-year period. Schools will focus on changes in the lunches in the first year. with most changes in breakfast to take place in future years. The new meal standards:

- Ensure students are offered both fruits and vegetables every day of the week;
- Substantially increase offerings of whole grain-rich foods and low-fat milk or fat-free milk varieties;
- Limit calories based on the age of children being served to ensure proper portion size; and
- Focus on reducing the amounts of saturated fat. trans fats and sodium.

The new meal requirements are raising standards for the first time in more than fifteen years and improving the health and nutrition of nearly 32 million kids that participate in school meal programs every school day. The healthier school meals are a key component of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act. which was championed by the First Lady as part of her Let's Move! campaign and signed into law by President Obama.

Watch a special back to school welcome video from First Lady Michelle Obama.

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) oversees the administration of 15 nutrition assistance programs. including school meals programs. that touch the lives of one in four Americans over the course of a year. These programs work in concert to form a national safety net against hunger. Visit www.fns.usda.gov for information about FNS and nutrition assistance programs. To learn about the meal standards, go to www.fns.usda.gov/healthierschoolday.

Koraes Elementary School started their 103rd School Year

On Monday August 27. 2012. Koraes Elementary School in Palos Hills, affiliated with St. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Palos Hills, began their 103rd school year. Pictured from left to right: Mrs. Mary Zaharis (Principal), 8th grade student Victoria Atkinson. Fr. Tom DeMedeiros, Father Byron Papanikolaou. Father Nicholas Greanias. and Father Mousa Haddad.

Village View

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B-MAC EDITION

Volume 6 | Number 17 | September 4, 2012

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Midlothian Opts in for video gambling

by Jan Glaz

Midlothian joined surrounding municipalities by opting-in to accept Video Gaming on August 22nd at the Village of Midlothian Board Meeting. The positive vote rallied after a number of committee meetings and a lengthy public discussion, including residents and business owners supporting gaming machines and speakers from outside Midlothian voicing their concerns regarding the dangers that can befall individuals and families exposed to gambling.

Midlothian's Metra Station came under scrutiny when Mayor Stephens introduced a motion to repave the West Metra Lot on Waverly Avenue and reported that the project was itemized in the 2012-13 budget. He noted that the lot had been seal coated a number of times but has deteriorated to the point of a total reconstruction if it is not repaved. Stephens mentioned that the work would be done on the weekend and listed three proposals: Crowley Sheppard Asphalt, $30,940.00; Rory's Outdoor Maintenance, $37,800.00; and Wally's Paving, $27,200.00. All things being equal, Wally's Paving in the amount of $27,200, was recommended and consequently approved.

Other approvals before Adjournment: Authorization was granted to request ComEd to install additional street lighting at Waverly Avenue at Triangle Park, 14633 Avers (alley and street) and the alley behind Firestone. The Village of Midlothian would be responsible for the electric bill ($12 to $20 per month per fixture). Water main replacements are costly and the city council agreed to pay the sum of $182,357.55 to J. Congdon Sewer Service, Inc. and $63,547.79 to Swallow Construction Corporation; both invoices were also approved by Robinson Engineering.

Alsip may eliminate Vehicle Stickers

by Jan Glaz

On August 20th at the Village of Alsip Board Meeting an angry crowd of residents interrupted a discussion by the board of trustees, several times. The disagreement began when Trustee McGreal requested to strike out: An ordinance to authorize the submission of an advisory referendum question regarding the village of Alsip's motor vehicle license sticker requirement to be submitted to the voters of the village of Alsip at the November 6, 2012 General Election.

McGreal feared a loss of revenue and wanted to ponder the idea with board members at a future committee meeting. Mayor Patrick Kitching stressed that the ordinance is merely an 'advisory' referendum. He further explained that the ordinance would allow residents to decide if they had an interest in eliminating vehicle stickers for an alternate source of revenue tied to electrical aggregation. Kitching questioned McGreal, "Do you understand what I'm telling you, that if you don't do this tonight it can't go on the ballot?" When asked by the Mayor to make a motion Trustee McGreal declined, prompting the Mayor to reply, "Is there another trustee here who would like to make a motion?" Trustee Daddona offered a motion but only after it was agreed to add verbiage to the ordinance stating the possibility of a utility tax being added on. Roll call produced a tie giving Kitching an opportunity to cast a crowd pleasing vote, followed by applause. "It's a rare occasion that I get to vote on anything; I vote yes," said the Mayor.

A Unit #11, 1994 Ford L-8000 5-ton dump truck with plow and salt spreader was approved for sale by an ordinance authorizing the sale and/or disposal of personal property owned by the village of Alsip. The equipment will be sold at the Southwest Council of Mayors Municipal Auction held on September 22, 2012, to the highest bidder.

Of Interest: Items granted approval by the city council before adjournment included a request to hire two persons from the current hiring list: one person to fill the vacancy created by the recent retirement of Chief Geraci and recent promotions, and one person to fill the vacancy lost by attrition and not replaced: Engine 2053, the 1986 Gruman Telesquirt Engine will be sold to the De Gualacco Volunteer Fire Department in Ecuador; and approximately $4,500 worth of foam acquired by the Fire Department, used for fighting flammable liquid fire, from the sister plant of the Alsip Arkema Coating Plant, 12840 South Pulaski.

America's Salute to Armed Forces

Calling all military personnel, reservist and veterans. We Want You!

A Free Patriotic celebration to salute our Armed Forces Service men and women. Share in an afternoon of fellowship and appreciation for your courage and dedication. Those that have served in the United States Armed Forces in war time and peace time will be honored for their contribution and sacrifice to our great Nation. This celebration is proudly presented by Cook County Commissioner Joan Patricia Murphy, Miller/Coors Beer, Vitas Innovative Hospice Care, Dignity Memorial, and Double Tree Hotel.

"Salute to Our Armed Forces" ceremony and celebration will be held on Tuesday, October 2, 2012 at 1p.m. - 3p.m. at the Double Tree Hotel. Located at 5000 W. 127th Street, in Alsip. All Honorees must pre-register to attend. All branches of military service men and women will receive an Honorary "Salute Certificate" and custom designed Brass Commemorative Medallion.

The Ceremony will also include a Color Guard presentation, POW-MIA Remembrance Service, noted guest speaker Reginald Booker and patriot entertainment. Refreshments will be served to all honorees and guests.

Registration is required. If you wish to be honored at this Patriot ceremony. You must call or mail to register for the event. Please list your name, branch of serve, phone number, address and number of guests attending. RSVP by September 25th. Call Commissioner Joan Patricia Murphy's Office at 708-389-2125. Mail information to the Office of Cook County Commissioner Joan Patricia Murphy, 5405 W. 127th Street, Crestwood, IL 60445

District 130 recently named Dr. Jennifer Aldred-Berry as its assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction.

District 130 Board appoints new assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction

After a nearly yearlong search, Dr. Jennifer Aldred-Berry has been named Cook County School District 130's new assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction. Dr. Aldred-Berry was selected from over 110 applicants and formally assumed her new position on July 9. Appointed to the position at the June Board of Education meeting, Dr. Aldred-Berry takes on the post previously held by the late Kathleen Duba.

"The selection of Dr. Aldred-Berry was the result of a community-based interview process that included teachers, administrators, parents and other school staff. We were all impressed with her ability to quickly identify challenges and opportunities within District 130," Lauk said.

Prior to her appointment, Dr. Aldred-Berry served as a district/school improvement consultant at West 40 Intermediate Service Center #2 in Bellwood since 2004. Her duties included providing leadership in the areas of data analysis and district and school improvement: standards-based curriculum, instruction, and classroom assessment: Response to Intervention: teacher and administrator enhancement: student, family, and community support services: profiling student engagement using the Instructional Practices Inventory: learning communities: social emotional learning: and parent educator partnerships. Before taking on the consultant role, Dr. Aldred-Berry served as an early reading specialist at West 40 ISC #2 from 2002 to 2004 and as an educator in residence at the Illinois State Board of Education in Springfield from 2000 to 2002. Dr. Aldred-Berry also served as a middle school language arts and reading teacher as well as a second grade teacher in West Harvey-Dixmoor School District #147, and a first grade teacher in Bensenville School District 2. In addition, Dr. Aldred-Berry has served as an adjunct graduate instructor in writing across the curriculum at Aurora University and an adjunct professor in interorganizational communication at Roosevelt University.

Dr. Aldred-Berry earned a bachelor's degree in early childhood education/special education from Elmhurst College, a master's degree in educational administration from Governors State University and a doctoral degree in organization development from Benedictine University. Cook County School District 130 serves nearly 4,100 students at thirteen school sites. The district serves portions of the communities of: Alsip, Blue Island, Crestwood and Robbins.

KIDS CLUB Registration are Now Being Accepted

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church, 8426 West 95th Street, Hickory Hills, announces that registrations are now being accepted for KIDS CLUB. This after school program, which starts on Monday, September 10" is open to all children age 5 - grade 6. It meets every Monday, 3:30 - 5:00 through the month of May. There is no cost for participation in this program.

Under the direction of staff members and trained volunteers, children will have the opportunity to participate in weekly activities including games in gym, crafts, knitting club, cooking, music, reading group, and Christian life study. Our program, which has a religious base has been structured in a nondenominational way so that we may be open to as many children in the community as possible.

For further information concerning this program or registration, please contact the church office at 708-598-3100. Limited spaces are available and filled on a first come, first serve basis.

Palos Park Parade

*Volunteering Opportunity - Palos Park's 'Autumn in the Park' Festival Parade - Saturday, September 15th, 2012 *

On Saturday, Sept. 15th, can you spare some time to walk with us in Palos Parks 'Autumn in the Park' Festival Parade?

YOUR ARRIVAL AROUND 10:00 AM to 10:15 AM SHOULD BE FINE! Parade step off is at 11:00 AM.

General location of parade route is down 123rd Street from 80th Avenue to 90th Avenue.

Lineup number to be announced later when obtained.

We will have Red, White and Blue t-shirts for walkers.

We're looking for people to walk with us - banner and sign carriers, smiling wavers, candy throwers, and literature passers.

I hope to see you there. Thanks again for all your help!

Evergreen Park Public Library

Garden Club of Evergreen Park

The Garden Club of Evergreen Park will meet on Thursday, September 6 at 6:30 pm. All meetings are held on the 1st Thursday of the month. Annual fee of $20 is payable upon joining the group. Non-members may attend up to 2 meetings by making a small donation ($5 for most meetings). For information, email Beth Donahue at bnjdonahue@hotmail.com.

Teacher in the Evergreen Park Public Library

After School Homework Help

Does your student need help completing homework assignments? Beginning September 4, Evergreen Park Elementary School District bilingual teachers Margaret Essig and Kerrie Lopez will staff a free, drop in homework center after school at the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 S. Troy on Mondays through Thursdays from 3:30 pm-5:30 pm.

The "Teacher in the Library" is made possible from a donation from the Archer Daniels Midland Company through the ADM Cares Strong Communities program, which invests in community initiatives that make a positive difference in the education of children.

Back-to-School BINGO at the Evergreen Park Public Library

On Tuesday, September 8 at 3:00 pm at the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 South Troy, grades 5 and under are invited to play back-to-school bingo to win cool prizes.

Sunday Lego Club at the Evergreen Park Public Library

Lego Club for children in kindergarten through fifth grade will meet on Sunday, September 9 at 2:30 pm at the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 South Troy.

Computer Classes at the Evergreen Park Public Library!

On Mondays and Fridays, September 10 through October 28 at the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 South Troy. "Basic Computers", "Stay Connected", and "Internet Advantage" computer classes are offered. There is a $5 refundable depnsit per class, payable upon registration. The entire fee will be returned, contingent upon attendance. This program is funded through the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, "Bridging the Digital Divide" grant.

Siege Engines at the Evergreen Park Public Library!

On Tuesday, September 11 from 7:00-8:30 pm at the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 South Troy, teens, grades 6-12, will learn how to construct a catapult: test it out, then lay siege to a fortress! Registration is required.

Duct Tape Wallets at the Evergreen Park Public Library!

On Wednesday, September 11 from 3:30 to 4:30 pm at the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 South Troy, teens, grades 6-12, will learn how to make a duct tape wallet. All materials provided. Registration required.

From Tap to Table with Chef Kate

Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 S. Troy will host "From Tap to Table", a culinary program for adults on Thursday, September 13 at 6:30 pm. Chef Kate primes you for the library's Oktoberfest on Sep 22 by demonstrating tasty recipes that use beer as an ingredient! Samples to taste and copies of her recipes are provided. Registration and a $3.00 tasting fee are required. The class is limited to 60 participants. Registration required.

Weekend Quilters at the Evergreen Park Public Library!

Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 S. Troy hosts the monthly meeting of "Weekend Quilters" on Saturday, September 15 from 1:00 until 3:00 pm. Instructor Penny Nichols will share her knowledge of quilt design and construction. Whether you are a beginner or seasoned veteran quilter, you can enjoy learning how to make various different and ongoing traditional and art quilt projects. This is a demonstration no sewing machine required.

Preschool Storytime at the Evergreen Park Public Library

The Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 South Troy, invites children of ages 3 to 5 years Preschool Storytime on Tuesdays or Wednesdays from September 18 through October 24. Children will have fun with engaging books, songs and activities as they build their early literacy skills. Registration required.

You Can Brew It!

Home brewing is a fun and rewarding hobby enjoyed by millions worldwide! On Tuesday, September 18 at 6:30 pm, the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 S. Troy, hosts award-winning home brewer Scott Pointon discusses equipment, ingredients, the brewing process and resources available to aspiring brew masters. Please register.

Crochet Club - Learn to Crochet!

Adults and teens are invited to "Crochet Club Learn to Crochet" on Tuesdays, September 18 through October 23 from 6:30 until 8:30 pm. Classes will be held offsite at Jacob's Well, 3450 W. Maple, Evergreen Park. Attendees are asked to bring a size H-8 or I-9 crochet hook and will learn the basic stitches to create a scarf. Registration through the Evergreen Park Public Library is required.

Monarch Club at the Evergreen Park Public Library

The Monarch Club for children in kindergarten through third grade will meet at the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 South Troy at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, September 19 through October 24. Participants will listen to Illinois children's choice book award nominations and have fun with crafts and games. Registration required.

Tiny Tots Storytime at the Evergreen Park Public Library

On Thursdays or Fridays from September 20 through October 26 at the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 South Troy, ages birth-2 years (with a favorite adult) are invited to enjoy songs, action rhymes, and stories, during Tiny Tots Storytime. Tiny Tots gives you the opportunity to encourage your child's emerging language skills while you get to know other young families. Registration required.

"The Hunger Games" Movie Presentation

Adults are invited to watch "The Hunger Games" [PG-13] on our big screen on Thursday, September 20 at 10:30 am. Bring your own snack; coffee is provided. Please register.

Angry Birds - LIVE!

On Saturday, September 22 at 3:00 pm at the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 South Troy, grades 5 and under are invited to Angry Birds - LIVE!! Participants will build and play a live-action version of Angry Birds, make their own birds or pigs, and have a porcine party Please register.

Oktoberfest – Beer and German Wine Tasting

Evergreen Park Public Library Foundation, will host an Oktoberfest – Beer and German Wine Tasting on Saturday, September 22 at 6:30 pm at the Evergreen Park Activity Center, 3220 W 98th Street. Don your lederhosen or your dirndl and help raise funds for the Evergreen Park Public Library's homebound delivery program! Your entry fee includes: a commemorative Oktoberfest pilsner tasting glass; 10 tasting tickets for beer, wine, food, or non-alcoholic beverages; and live entertainment by the Bratwurst Brothers. Tap into the taste of premium craft beers and German wines. Enter the stein-hoisting contest or take a chance on raffles for Oktoberfest-inspired baskets. 21 & over may register online @www.evergreenparklibrary.org or call 422-8522. Entry fees are: $25 advance registration or $30 at the door. Credit cards accepted. Reservations will be held at the door with photo ID.

For more information, call (708) 422-8522.

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We have found that through the years of publishing the readers are interested in general information and also local happenings within their community. Therefore because we are fully electronic, we will not be accepting faxed or mailed news releases.

Patriot Day
September 11

On September 11, 2012, we remain grateful to the heroes of 9.11 and to our men and women in uniform. We remain committed to the ideals of freedom, liberty and justice for all. We remain united as Americans.

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The Presbyterian Church in Orland Park

2012 Arts & Crafts Fair

Applications to be a crafter for our Annual Arts & Crafts Fair on Saturday, November 10, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. are available from the church office. Crafter fee for table space (8› by 4 1/2›) with two chairs is $30, tables are available for an additional $5.

W.O.W. Arts for Kids Registration and Staff Sign-Ups:

Our W.O.W. Arts for Kids program for children in grades 1-6 begins its fall nine-week session September 12 through November 14 (no class on October 31).

We meet on Wednesdays, 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Registration forms are available on our web-site: www.pcorland.org. Helpers are needed in the kitchen (no cooking!) and to help the children with the projects, following the directions of the Group Leaders. For more information or contact Cindy at 708/448-8142.

34th Orland Open Spelling Bee

Join 100+ Spellers of All Ages (Age 8 to 80+) Sunday, October 21, at 2:00 p.m. at The Presbyterian Church, 13401 S. Wolf Road, Orland Park. Co-Sponsored by the Village of Orland Park & The Presbyterian Church in Orland Park

Open to "All Ages", senior citizens, adults, teens & children (8 years to 80+) and from Anywhere!

Pre-registration by phone is encouraged beginning September 1st. There is no charge to compete

For registration & contest rules call: 708/429-7764, 708/460-0948, or 708/448-8142.

Autumn BBQ and Party Ideas

Julea Joseph will get things cooking at the Palos Park Public Library on Tuesday, September 11th at 7:00 pm with her program Autumn BBQ and Party Ideas. Learn about her mouthwatering BBQ recipes and party ideas for fall. Samples will be provided. Call the library to register at 708-448-1530 or visit the library online at www.palosparklibrary.org . The library is located at 12330 Forest Glen Blvd. in Palos Park.

Andrea Ramirez-Justin of Orland Hills is sworn in by Trustee Sandra Wagner at the August 22 Moraine Valley Community College Board of Trustees meeting. Ramirez-Justin was will serve as trustee until the April 2013 board election.

Moraine Valley trustees appoint Orland Hills resident to vacant seat

Banker Andrea Ramirez-Justin of Orland Hills, the newest member of the Moraine Valley Community College Board of Trustees, is ready to roll up her sleeves and dig right in, and it will be a labor of love when she does so.

Ramirez-Justin, a vice president of the Old Plank Trail Community Bank, was appointed by the board of trustees at its regular meeting on August 22 to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mark Weber of Orland Park. She will serve until the April 2013 board election and then seek election to the board.

"I am so humbled and honored to be part of this board of trustees. Moraine Valley is such a wonderful value, such a gem in the southwest suburbs. I just love it. I can't say enough about it," she said.

"We are extremely pleased that Andrea has accepted our invitation to serve. She will bring enthusiasm and knowledge to the board. She has more than 25 years of experience in banking and has been actively involved in the community," Joe Murphy, board chairman, said. "She will make a great addition to the board, and we look forward to working with her in the coming months."

Ramirez-Justin says she is "so proud to be a part of Moraine. There's always a welcoming feeling. We have such a wonderful diversity of students. Everyone wants to help our students succeed. I know there will be challenges, but I'm not afraid to make those tough decisions if we need to."

In her current position with Old Plank Trail Community Bank, she manages governmental and public entity relationships with the bank, realizing a portfolio of over $50 million. She also manages business development and small business initiatives. She began her banking career in 1984 with First National Bank in Chicago Heights and then moved to Old Plank in 2007 when it was organizing.

Ramirez-Justin continues to be involved in a variety of civic and community activities. She is the vice president of the Economic Development Council of the Southwest Suburbs at Moraine Valley, president of the Professional Women's Network, first vice president of the Mokena Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the Illinois State Treasurer Office's Banking Advisory Board. She is a religion education teacher at St. Stephen's Catholic Church in Tinley Park. She also has served on the Village Board in Matteson and as a Housing and Human Relations commissioner. She is the 2010 recipient of The Business Ledger's Entreprencurial Excellence Award.

She earned a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison Graduate School of Banking and a bachelor's degree from Northern Illinois University. She and her husband, Rob, are the parents of Eric, a student at Moraine Valley, and Lindsey, a junior at Andrew High School.

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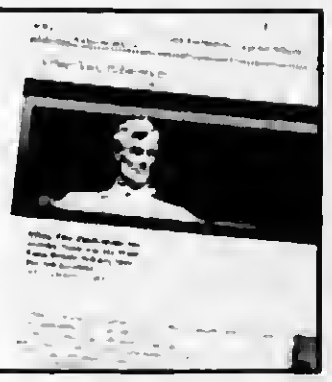

Record Show

You can still, finish building your music collection by attending the RECORD COLLECTORS SHOW which has just opened in it's new facility at the Georgios Comfort Inn, 8800 W. 159th St., Orland Park, on September 15th, 2012.

Start by browsing thousands of albums and 45's in the catagory of your choice. Add memorabilia, phono needles, cassettes, cd's, archival supplies and more. Bring a want list, your memories and friends.

This show runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with a general admission of $3, free to children 12 & under. For contact information call Larry at (773) 585-6254. Stop over for you own piece of music history and memories.

De La Salle to Hold Sports Hall of Fame Ceremony

De La Salle Institute proudly announces that it will be indueting four contributors to the school's athletic program into the Sports Hall of Fame on Sept. 14, 2012. There will be a pregame celebration and ceremony beginning at 5 pm in the Hilton Commons located at De La Salle's Institute Campus for Young Men at 3434 S. Michigan Ave. in Chicago.

The formal induction ceremony will take place at halftime of the De La Salle – St. Ignatius varsity football game that night. Kickoff is at 7:30 pm.

Being indueted are De La Salle alumni Ted Morgan '77, Eric Coleman '82 and John Granat '89 and longtime De La Salle golf and tennis coach Steve Hopkins.

Tickets for the speeial and memorable evening are $25 for adults and $5 for children 12 and under. The admission price includes dinner, program and ticket to the homecoming football game.

For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact Iris Gist Cochran, De La Salle's Director of Development, at (312) 842-7355 ext. 152 or by email at cochranit@dls.org.

De La Salle Institute is an independent Catholic secondary school rooted in the tradition of Christian Education begun by St. John Baptist de La Salle. Founded in 1889, its mission has been, and is, to foster a desire for excellence in education. Young people from a variety of ethnic and economic backgrounds are given the opportunity to fully develop their abilities so they may be active, contributing members of our complex changing society.

Music Fest

Last outdoor music fest of year!

Enjoy a great group, fun to dance to, Charles and Company, September 8th from 8:00 to 11:00 p.m. at Marrs-Meyer American Legion Post 991, 11001 S. Depot, Worth.

Featuring an outdoor beer tent, hot dogs & raffles, also a public bar and covered patio.

Everyone is welcomed!

Oak Lawn Park District

Registration for Fall Karate Classes

Illinois Shotokan Karate Club (ISKC) is gearing up for its fall session at the Oak Lawn Park District. Class registration for individuals ages 4 through adult is currently being accepting.

What better way to burn off those extra calories while improving the whole family's overall well being than participating in karate? Whether you are looking for fitness, fun, self-defense or simply want to try something new, karate's benefits are endless. ISKC has something to offer beginners and experts alike, regardless of age or background.

ISKC is the largest karate club in the nation. All classes are taught by ISKC's expert instructors under the direction of John DiPasquale, a 7th degree black belt and four time National Champion as well as a Karate National Coach and National Faculty Member of American Coaching Effectiveness Program.

To register or for more information, please contact the Oak Lawn Park District at 708-857-2400.

The Worthwhile Players present...

Honky Tonk Mayhem, a four course meal and a four act play for $20.00, children under 12 $15.00.

Friday and Saturday, October 19th and 20th at the United Methodist Church of Worth, 7100 W. 112th. St., Worth.

Make reservations by calling Sue at 448-6682 or email umemm@gmail.com.

Reservations confirmed upon receipt of payment. No tickets will be sold at the door.

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I Am An American Day Parade

The parade will be held on Central Avenue from 151st Street to the path behind the Oak Forest Commons Shopping Center (Food 4 Less) on Saturday, September 15 at 11 a.m.

The Veterans Commission is hosting the reenactments as a way to recognize the bicentennial of the War of 1812, which brought the United States the Star Spangled Banner, the current White House, and a strong national identity. The re-enactment will include battles on September 15 at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. and on September 16 at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

For more information about the parade, please contact Chrissy Maher at 708-687-4050, ext. 1043, cmaher@oak-forest.org, or visit www.oak-forest.org.

Musichorale Community Choir

Musichorale announces its annual Scholarship Contests for amateur vocalists and instrumentalists.

Vocal competition will be held for 11igh School students on Saturday, Oct. 27, 2012 at 10 a.m. The instrumental contest for students in grades 6-12 will be held on Saturday, March 2, 2013 at 10 a.m. at the Oak Lawn Community Church, 9000 S. Ridgeland, Oak Lawn.

More than $3,500 in prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place winners. First place winners will also be featured soloists at one of Musichorale's annual concerts.

Application fee is $25. Vocal applications must be postmarked by Oct. 10, 2012. Instrumental applications must be postmarked by Feb. 10, 2013. The public is invited free of charge. For further information, or to download applications and rules, visit our website www.musichorale.org or call our 24-hour number at (312) 409-6661. Please e-mail any questions to mcscholarship@gmail.com.

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www.stbenbi.org
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OPEN HOUSE!
Musichorale

Musichorale, your Chicagoland community chorus, is a non-profit music organization that has been bringing choral works to the general public through concerts, weddings and parties for 60 years. Please visit our website for further information, www.musichorale.org

Open House for High School Students Tuesday, September 11, 2012 at 7:30pm

JOIN US for the 2012-13 Season

We are welcoming all new members! Join us any Tuesday at 7:30pm starting in September at Oak Lawn Community Church, 9000 S. Ridgeland Ave, Oak Lawn. There is a simple application form and no-pressure audition. All voices from high school and up are welcome. We are a fun group of local community members who love making music. Our repertoire is varied and we sing 8 months of the year (Sept - April). Our 1st rehearsal for this season is Tuesday, September 4, 2012 at 7:30pm.
We look forward to seeing you at a rehearsal... we love new voices!
For more information, please call Jeff at 773-239-6279 or Brian at 773-405-5538.

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Chicago Dancing Festival

by Annette Dixon

Recently I attended my first Chicago Dancing Festival. Dance enthusiasts can find many opportunities to see great dance companies in Chicago all year round, but I chose this one. The Chicago Dancing Festival was founded in 2007 to raise the national and international profile of dance in the city of Chicago. Lar Lubovitch, a popular choreographer, whose dances were performed throughout the world was awarded the 2012 Prix Benois de la Danse for Choreography at the Bolshoi Theater in Moscow.

Mr. Lubovitch is also one of the Founders of this group, another founder is Jay Franke who began his formal training at Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Dallas, Texas.

Jay Franke was selected as a Finalist for the Presidential Scholar in Arts in 1993 and was accepted into Juilliard School, were he received his BFA in Dance from that school. Franke went to work with the Twyla Tharp Dance Company and has since danced with The 58 Group, Lyric Opera Ballet Chicago, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago and was leading dancer in the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company from 2005 until 2010.

The Chicago Dancing Festival takes place every year in Chicago for six days the end of August for free dance events. This year they had companies such as After School Matters, which was organized by the late Maggie Daley. Bolero Chicago was a Chicago Premiere by Choreographer, Larry Keigwin who is commissioned by Chicago Dancing Festival.

Other dance troupes such as Giordano Dance Chicago, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, The Joffrey Ballet, Ballet Arizona Brian Brooks Moving Company, Martha Graham Dance Company, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Stars of San Francisco Ballet appeared at the Auditorium Theatre, Museum of Contemporary Art, Harris Theater, Grant Park.

As stated by Lar Lubovitch and Jay Franke, "we hope that this year's Festival inspires you to experience more dance in Chicago, and that you will continue to make the Chicago Dancing Festival a must for your summer plan. Enjoy and see you next summer."

For those who would like the free Chicago Dancing Festival, please make a check to Chicago Dancing Company, P.O. Box 101043, Chicago, IL, 606010 or use a credit card,

ar.gy/edfdonor

Chicago Dancing Company NFP is a 501 (c) (3) not for profit organization.

Local restaurant hosts Orland Chamber meet up

Young Professionals Group Meets at Cooper's Hawk Winery

Members of the Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals Committee will meet on Wednesday, September 12, 5:30 p.m. at Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurant which is located at 15690 South Harlem Avenue in Orland Park. Attendees are responsible for their own meal and all are welcome to attend. The Young Professionals committee is a group of professionals within the 20-40 year old age group. The committee's goal is to create a professional peer group within which they can share business experiences and make contacts with other local professionals.

The Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce is a not-for-profit organization that serves as the primary resource for business and the community in Orland Park and the surrounding suburbs.

For more information on becoming a member of the Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce or to RSVP for this event, call (708)349-2972 or visit the website at www.orlandparkchamber.org.

Alimentari Osteria

by Annette Dixon

Going to an Italian Restaurant is like going home after a long foreign trip.

Chef Manuel Cassas takes pride in his homemade pasta and pizza dough. The owner is Italian and French which is why the food has a unique flavor. He wants to replicate that home cooking he remembers so well.

If you are looking for homemade Italian Food, I would suggest their Tortelloni filled with summer squash, ricotta, goat cheese, zuccini sauce or homemade ravioli stuffed with shrimp, avocado, and saffron, fennel sauce. They do not have an extensive menu, so you won't be confused. Their prices are great, and you won't be disappointed.

The first week of September Alimentari is open for lunch. The lunch menu consists of Margherta/Pizza $6.00 Miller for Monday, Light $3, Tuesday Prix Fixe 3 Course Dinner $19, Friday, Pasta tasting $20 Saturday, Chef Tasting 5 Courses $28. Alementari is at 621 W. Randolph, not far from the Union Station on Canal. This is a casual dining venue and very cozy. Call for reservations at 312-382-8880

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Our board certified healthcare team is now treating patients at Little Company of Mary's new Outpatient Care Center. Drs. Joyce Chen and Michael Hanak provide comprehensive medical care for the whole family - newborn through geriatric.

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Oak Lawn Park District Upcoming events

Ice Arena's Cool Make-Over

The Oak Lawn Park District's Ice Arena, located at 9320 S. Kenton Ave., recently installed a new heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) unit for the ice rink area of the facility that includes many benefits to participants as well as spectators.

The new unit, manufactured by Controlled Dehumidification (CDIMS), is primarily a dehumidifier with heating and cooling capabilities added. The up-to-date technology that the new HVAC unit brings to the ice arena will give patrons and participants an improvement in air quality while increasing their safety. For the park district, it will reduce utility consumption and save money. The ice arena has also received new ice and a new paint job.

Upcoming ice skating programs include a mini 5 week session; Thursday classes start September 6th; Saturday classes start September 8th and a Fall 10-week session; Thursday classes start October 11th; Saturday classes start October 13th.

New customers can register for one of the park district's upcoming Tot 1 (ages 3 to 5), Pre-Alpha (ages 6 & up), or adult, "Learn to Skate" group classes and receive a free skate rental punch card valid for 5 free skate rentals. Also, every registered student receives free open skate for the length of the class!

The ice arena is currently open for freestyle skating. Please contact the ice arena at 708-857-5173 for more information.

Free Festival for Dogs & People

Join the Oak Lawn Park District for the 3rd Annual Woofstock Festival on Saturday, September 15th, from 1:00 to 4:00pm, at Bailey's Crossing Dog Park (9910 S. Melvina). This free event will include contests, a dog fashion show, doggie dashes, and vendor booths. Concessions will be available for purchase. For more information, please call 708-857-2200 or email jcanty@olparks.com.

Village of Evergreen Park News

Annual Evergreen Park Classic Car Show coming on Friday, October 12, 2012 at Yukich Field! Great family event; refreshments, cool cars, great music. . .even a good old-fashioned Good Humor Ice Cream Truck! Do you have a classic car to show? Visit us at www.evergreen-park-ill.com and download an entry form!

Fall Tree Program!!

We are pleased to announce our bi-annual tree planting program for the Fall of 2012. The program enables residents and business owners alike to choose from a great variety of trees at a reduced cost. Stop in to the Village Hall and get a brochure, or check it out online at www.evergreen-park-ill.com.

Construction Updates:

Southbound traffic on Western Avenue between 91st Street and 96th Street will be re-directed until October 31 due to road repairs/construction in those lanes.

From The Office of Citizens Services. . .

Farmers Market Is Open! Every Thursday at Yukich Field from 7am to 1pm until October 25. OCS Mini-Bus is available to transport Evergreen Park residents. Call (708) 422-8776 for an appointment.

Meals on Wheels Program available to Evergreen Park residents (60+ unable to prepare their own meals). Meals delivered Mon-Fri. Call (708) 422-8776.

Recreation Department Happenings

Openings for Pre-School 4 & 5 year olds, Monday, Wednesday and Friday (PM Classes) 12:15pm to 2:45pm. 3 year olds, Tuesday and Thursday 9am to 11:30am & Monday/Wednesday/Friday afternoon classes, 12:15pm to 2:45pm

Registration will be taken for children turning 3 years old, for the 2nd and 3rd sessions; children must be potty-trained. Call the Recreation Department for more information. (708) 229-3373.

Adult Boot Camp

Mon. Thurs. & Sat, 9am to 10am at Yukich Field. $50 for 10 classes.

Registration for Fall programs begins on Wednesday, September 12 (except for swimming registration, which takes place on Saturday, September 15). Fall Program books will be available next week; in the meantime, you can call the Recreation Department at (708) 229-3373.

Community Events

Kevin Dowling Scholarship Fund Golf Outing, on Friday, September 7, 2012 at Glen Eagles Country Club.

For more information, visit www.kevindowling-scholarshipfund.com or call (773) 972-6264.

MHR Raider Run/Walk to take place on Thursday, September 13 2012 from 6:00 to 6:45pm.

Youth Department has teens looking for work! Hire village teens to do yard work, clean out the attic, basement or garage. Call (708) 229-3377.

Oak Forest Park District Upcoming events

The Oak Forest Park District, 4412 Henry Street, is offering Let's get Messy! Hands on class for parent and child. Activities include paint, markers, crayons, slime, clay, play dough, sand and water. Classes are Tuesdays, September 25th thru October 30th from 11:30am to 12:15pm. Fee is $32R/$42NR.

The Oak Forest Park District, 15601 Central Ave. is offering Little Bitty Dancers, Kids Bop & Pixie Poms for children ages 3 to 7 years old. Classes are held on Tuesdays, starting September 18th thru November 6th.

Classes are 30 minutes long and start at 11:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m. or 12 noon. Fees are $34R/$44NR.

The Oak Forest Park District, 15601 Central Ave. is offering Wiggle, Giggle, Rock and Roll with Toddler for children ages 1 to 3 years and parent/care giver. Have fun with music and movement in this energetic class. Class meets once a week on Wednesday's from 6:00pm to 6:45pm.

September 19th thru October 24th. Fee is $36R/$46NR.

The Oak Forest Park District, 15601 Central Avenue is offering adult belly dance cardio for ages 16 years and older on Thursdays, September 27th thru November 15th 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Fee is $36R/$46NR.

The Oak Forest Park District, 15601 Central Avenue is offering a trip to Navy Pier on Thursday, September 13, 2012 leaving the Central Park main building 15601 S. Central Ave. at 9:00am returning at 4:00pm. Trip includes transportation, boat ride and entrance to the movie.

Fee is $44.00 and registration deadline is September 10th.

The Oak Forest Park District, 15601 Central Ave is offering gymnastics classes and dance classes for all ages and levels. Register now for classes that begin the week of September 17th.

The Oak Forest Park District, 15601 Central Ave. is offering Little Tykes for children ages 2 to 3 years old to enjoy group play. Toilet training is not necessary.

Classes meet weekly Friday, Sept 21st thru May 17, 2013. Choose from 9:30 am to 11:30 am or 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm. The fees are $351R/$456NR. A payment plan is available. Register now.

The Oak Forest Park District is offering Mommy & Me Gymnastics for children ages 2 to 3 years old. We offer Tuesdays, start Sept. 18th thru Oct. 23rd from 10:00 am to 10:30 am or 10:30 am to 11:00 am. Fridays, start Sept. 21st thru Oct. 26th from 6:00 pm to 6:30 pm or 6:30p to 7:00p. The cost is $30 for resident and $39 for nonresident.

The Oak Forest Park District, 4412 Henry Street is offering Tumbling for ages 1 thru 3 years old with adult on Monday's. October 1st thru November 5th starting at 6:15p to 7:00p. Fee is $34R/$44NR.

For further information on these upcoming events, call (708) 687-8882.

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"Mowimy po polsku!"

Tour the Fox Cities and enjoy the fall colors

by Annette Dixon

If taking a road trip this fall a real trip to enjoy, would be the Fox Cities. It's called Lake Winnebago road trip along the Fox River in the eastern part of Wisconsin. If coming from Chicago, you can travel past Milwaukee and continue north to Oshkosh. Once your in Oshkosh head north on Main Street to Washington Ave., turn right on Washington and drive the historic district to Lakeshore Drive. Take a left on Lakeshore Drive and then a left onto Merritt Ave. The entrance into Menominee Park is on the right.

Take a drive through the park, which lies on the shores of Lake Winnebago. Enjoy yourself and relax after a long drive. Once you are out of the park, take a right onto Hazel Street, veer right onto Menominee Drive and continue on Memominee Drive as it turns into Murdock Ave. Take a right onto Bowen Street. Bowen Street turns into County Road A. For a quick lookout spot stop, take a right on Snell Road and then a right on Sherman Road to Asylum Point Park. The lighthouse is a great place for a photo.

If this drive was exhausting, you shouldn't be too far from a very relaxing fun resort.. Best Western Premier, Bridgewood Resort Hotel and Conference Center. It has packages for a one night stay, two days double occupancy, complimentary delicious hot breakfast and the best coffee in hotels, dinner for two at the Ground Round Grill within the building and an Aquatic Fun Center, all for $149. They also have a newly designed golf course and the ground and hotel is immaculately clean. They have 95 guest rooms if you are not interested in their packages, the hotel still comes with a complimentary breakfast. Check out their website at www.bridgewoodresorthotel.com or call 1800-514-5206. Your in the twin cities of Neenah and Menasha and explore the Fox River which leads into Lake Winnebago. The hotel is in Neenah, did you know that there are more millionaires per capita in Neenah than any city in the United States. It is worth driving around Neenah to visit the exquisite mansions and view the sights along the river. Since the 1800's Neenah and Menasha were the heart of the nation's paper industry.

While in Neenah, visit the Bergstrom-Mahler Museum which houses the largest glass paperweight display in the world. Recently there was an exhibit of Rieky Bernstein's collection of Glass, Pop Art, contemporary and fascinating, funny cartoon like characters that were hung in several rooms in the Bergstrom-Mahler Museum. Betty's Big Night 2012 will be part of a permanent exhibit. I have seen Bernstein's exhibit in Chicago for the Sofa Exhibit last year at Navy Pier.

Troy Landwehr, Sculptor stated, "he likes to use Mild Cheddar Cheese that he purchases from Simon's Specialty Cheese". His talented unique art carving for the Fox Cities wine and cheese celebration is created for the Journalist visiting from the US and Canada. Troy was featured on the Dave Letterman show mainly because there are two known cheese sculptors in the United States.Troy lives near the Fox Cities. He mentioned his cheese sculpture will be on the Cheesy Cracker Box in the fall.

Ricky Bernstein's collection made of glass

While traveling in Neenah, there is a great Fox City Shopping Mall and if you are interested in Museums travel to Menasha.

Urban Evolutions, in Menasha specializing in building material, is a unique place for people who are interested in wood, not just new wood, but reclaimed flooring, barn siding, hand hewn timbers, factory timbers, corrugated tin, and custom mill work. Every piece is unique to the customer and you will be amazed at their designs. They also work with Tobacco Lathe pallets to make picture frames and unusual designs. They also use old school slates, which is really different. This is a worth while trip not to be missed, they are featured in Country Living Magazine. Look on www.urbanevolutions.com for their address and information.

Also in Menasha, the Barlow Planetarium at the University of Wisconsin. The Planetarium in the Fox Valley, is a world-class facility for 3-D excitement, giant full-color special effects and crystal-clear, five-channel, 10,000 watt surround sound it has a 48-foot projection dome and a star projector that recreates a realistic night sky. There are interactive keypads at each seat allowing audiences to get involved in performances.

Within the building head to the Weiss Earth Science Museum and learn about the state's mineral heritage and mining history (www.uwfox.uwc.edu/wesm). Before heading off to Appleton, WI, enjoy Menasha's landscaped river walk with a 87 ship marina, lighthouse, wharfs and dockside restaurants in Menasha.

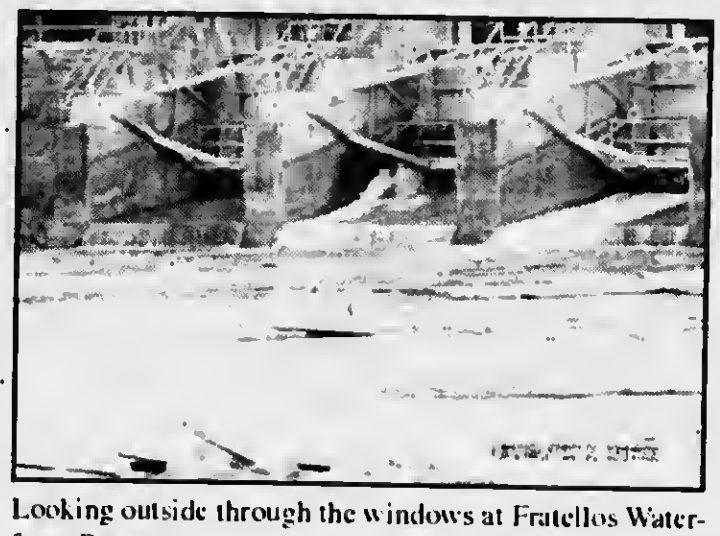
In Appleton, there is so much to see I would suggest starting at The Trout Museum of Art.Seven pictures of Winston Churchill became permanent collections, and the art is wonderful. There are several pieces from Mr. Trout, an accomplished entrepreneur, who funded the Museum and his wife is from Appleton.

After you have toured Appleton on the free trolley, you probably have chosen the sights you wanted to visit, but I have some recommendations for the sophisticated traveler. Try lunch at Simon's Specialty Cheese store. You can sample your way through a selection of Wisconsin's wines, beers, sausages, cheeses, plus chocolate cheese fudge.

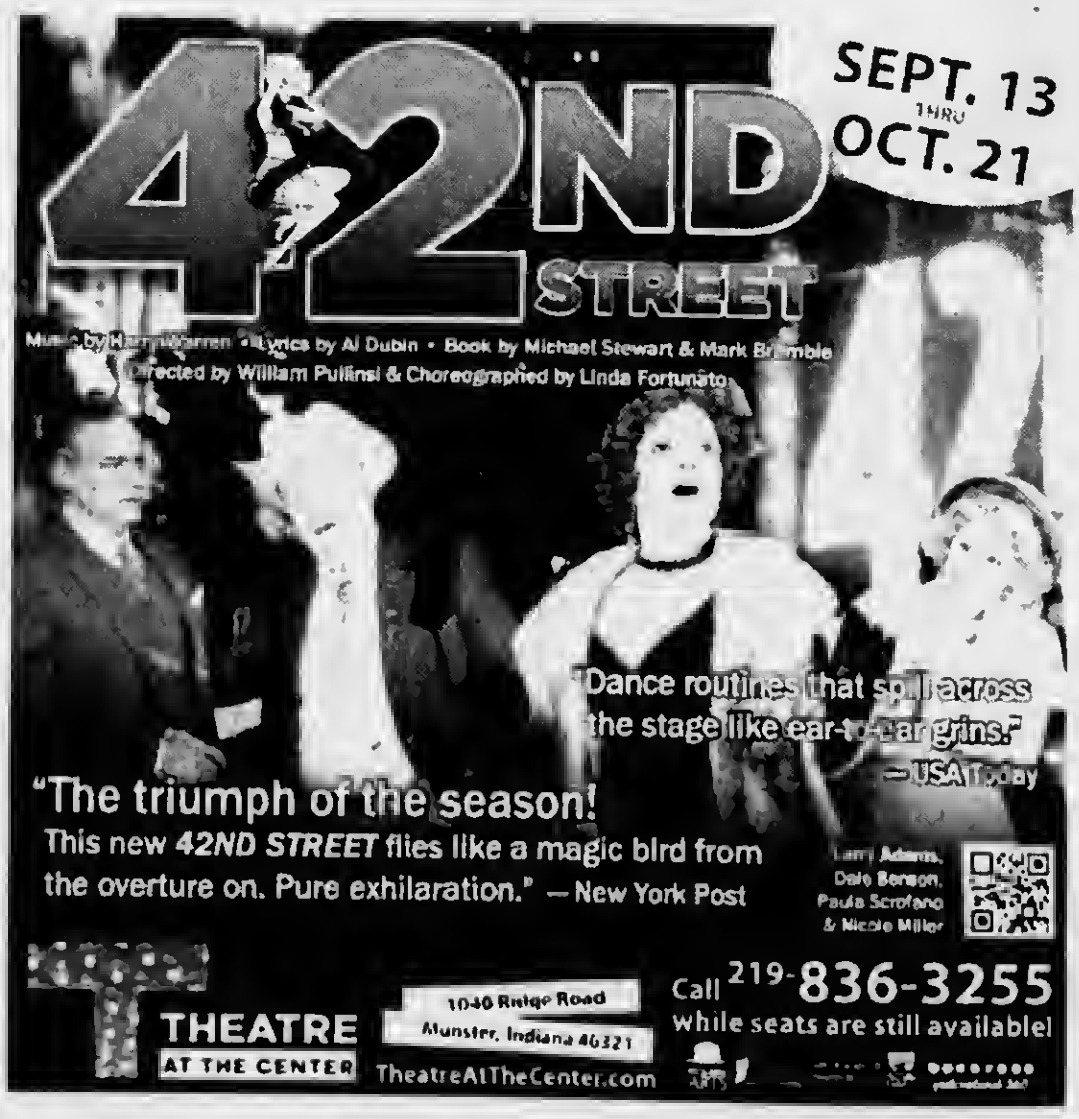
If this doesn't satisfy your hunger for lunch, then try Stone Cellar Brew Pub and take a tour of a working 1858 Pub, oldest beer garden in Wisconsin. Behind the scenes will give you a look at how their Stone Arch Brews are made. Check out their website at www.stonecellarbrewpub.com.If you are not a beer drinker, try Stone Arch Root Beer or the Stone Arch Orange Cream Soda along with their full menu or pizza. They also have a full bar, excellent wine list and they are opened daily at 11:00. Other bars in Appleton also have great food. The Bar on the Avenue 427 W. College Avenue, across from the Performing Art Center. You'll enjoy the leg lamps decorating the upstairs windows.

Appleton Masonic Temple was built in 1924 and is the symbol of Freemasonry, within it now houses the History Museum. It starts with Chief Oshkosh and the French invasion of 1600, Richmond Bros. opened the first mall, Edna Ferber, renown writer, grew up in Appleton and became a reporter for the Appleton Cresent. Fifty year career writing 12 novels, 11 books of short stories, 6 plays and two autobiographies. Her plays were Showboat, Amarron, Giant, Come and Get it, So Big, which she won a Pulitzer Prize in 1925. Outagamie County Historic Society now owns the building and maintains it to preserves the history of Appleton and the Fox Valley. They also have a hands on Houdini Museum, website is www.myhistorymuseum.org

If you are looking for fine dining, go to Fratellos Waterfront Restaurant. It's a nice place to wind down your day's activity with steaks, seafood, pastas, pizzas and sandwiches. Their website is www.fratelloswaterfront.com



Looking outside through the windows at Fratellos Waterfront Restaurant.



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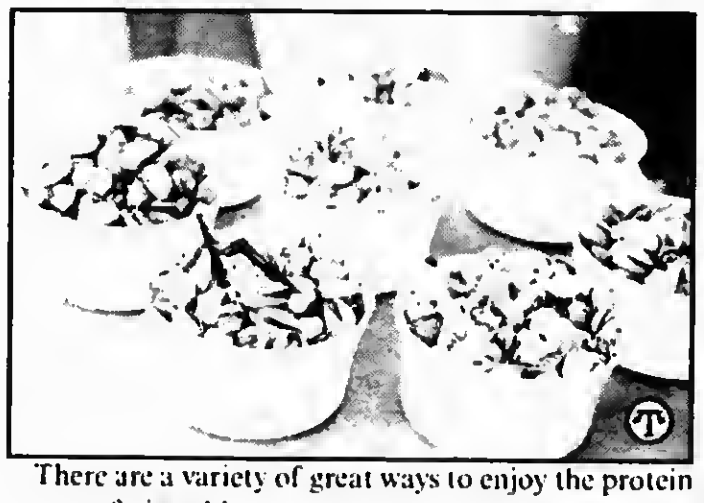
Nutrition in a nutshell

Go NUTS For Healthy Snacks

(NAPSA)-Eat nuts as a healthy source of protein, according to research published by the Harvard School of Public Health.* Researchers looked at the diets of more than 37,000 men and 83,000 women to see if they could find a link between diet and increased risk of death from heart disease or cancer. They found that replacing one serving of red meat with one serving of nuts was linked to a 19 percent lower risk of premature death or total mortality. The study reinforces the role of nuts as an important part of a healthy diet.

In addition to the Harvard study, the 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGA) encourages eating more plant-based foods, which has brought nuts into the spotlight as a great choice for protein, fiber and healthy fats. In fact, the DGA includes nuts on its list of "foods and nutrients to increase" for disease prevention and overall good health. Additionally, the DGA includes nuts as an example in its suggestion to choose a variety of protein-rich foods.



There are a variety of great ways to enjoy the protein power of pistachios.

"Protein is used most efficiently when consumed throughout the day," says Beeei Twombley, RD, CSSD, Nutrition Director for the UCLA Bruins, who is a board-certified specialist in sports dietetics. "Adding protein-rich snacks like one ounce of pistachios in between meals will help the body to build muscle more effectively."

Athletes and fitness enthusiasts are well aware of nuts as a valuable snack, accomplishing two goals: adding protein to their diets while satisfying hunger pangs between meals. The USA Men's and Women's Water Polo Teams have identified pistachios as their "Official Snack."

"You really can't go wrong with pistachios," says Twomhley. "With six grams of protein in every 160-calorie serving, pistachios are a protein front-runner compared to 160 calories of other convenience snacks."

Pistachios provide a new twist for nut lovers. They can be enjoyed right out of the bag or prepared in a creative way, like these flavored pistachios developed by Chef Grant MacPherson. He suggests experimenting with your own seasoning to customize your snacks.

For more information about the health benefits of pistachios and to find tasty recipes, visit www.AmericanPistachios.org.

Pistachios with Black and White Peppercorns

Ingredients:
4 tablespoons canola oil
1 pound American pistachios, in shell
1/4 ounce ground black peppercorns
1/4 ounce ground white peppercorns
Sea salt to taste

Instructions:
Warm the canola oil in a stovetop pan, add the pistachios and toast evenly. Add the ground black and white pepper, coat evenly and continue toasting; season with sea salt to taste. Remove from heat and serve warm in the dish of your choice.

References:
*Pan A, Sun Q, Bernstein AM, Schulze MB, Manson JE, Stampfer MJ, Willett WC, Hu FB. Red meat consumption and mortality: results from 2 prospective cohort studies. Arch Intern Med. 2012 Apr 9; 172(7):555-63.

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Chocolate and peanut hutter combine to create a tasty and nutritious sandwich cookie.

Chocolate And PB: Nutritious?

(NAPSA)-Chocolate and peanut hutter are a great match for many taste huds, hut they can offer nutritional henefits, too. The key is in which varieties you consume.

According to Registered Dietician Tammi Hancock, chocolate is rich in beneficial antioxidants, which are highest in unsweetened cocoa powder and dark chocolate.

Peanut hutter is a good source of protein and vitamin E. Hancock recommends choosing a natural variety with no hydrogenated or partially hydrogenated oils, such as Smart Balance(r) Rich Roast.

A good way to enjoy the pair is in this recipe:

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Chewy Chocolate PB Sandwich Cookies

Dough:

1/2	cup all-purpose flour
1/2	cup whole wheat flour
1/2	cup rolled oats, pulverized to coarse flour in a food processor or blender
1/2	cup Dutch cocoa powder
1/2	tsp baking powder
1/2	tsp salt
3/4	cup Smart Balance(r) Original Buttery Spread
1	cup granulated sugar
1/2	cup packed brown sugar
1	tsp vanilla
1	egg
1 1/2	oz unsweetened chocolate, melted and cooled slightly

Filling:

1/2	cup Smart Balance(r) Rich Roast Creamy Peanut Butter
1 1/2	cups powdered sugar
3	Tbsp Smart Balance(r) Fat Free Milk
1/2	tsp vanilla

In a small bowl, combine flours, oats, cocoa, baking powder and salt; set aside.

In a medium mixing bowl, cream Smart Balance(r) Buttery Spread and sugars with an electric mixer. Beat in vanilla and egg. Blend in melted chocolate. Gradually blend in the dry ingredients.

Using a 1-tablespoon scoop, spoon dough 2 inches apart onto parchment-lined baking sheets. Bake at 325 degrees for 10 to 12 minutes. Cool on parchment paper for at least 5 minutes.

For filling, cream together all ingredients in a mixing bowl until smooth. If needed, add a small amount of extra milk to reach the desired consistency. Transfer filling to a zip-top plastic hag or piping bag.

When completely cooled, place half the cookies bottom side up. Pipe filling onto the cookies, using ahout 2 teaspoons of filling per cookie. Top with the remaining cookies, hottom side down, to create a sandwich.

Yield: ahout 24 sandwich cookies (48 cookies made into 24 sandwiches)

Per 1-sandwich cookie serving: 196 calories, 3g protein, 28g carbohydrate, 8.5g fat, 2g saturated fat, 4g monounsaturated fat, 2g polyunsaturated fat, 0g trans fat, 238mg omega-3 fatty acids, 1,688mg omega-6 fatty acids, 8mg cholesterol, 133mg sodium, 2g fiber.

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If you're 50 or better and looking for a new way to get the most out of life, explore Senior Circle. As a member, you'll learn more about your health, and receive great perks such as local and national discounts, social events, travel opportunities and more. Join us for our free Kickoff Celebration of MetroSouth Medical Center Senior Circle chapter on Thursday, September 27, 2012 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the DoubleTree® by Hilton, 5000 West 127th Street in Alsip, Illinois. Space is limited, so please RSVP to 708-489-7925 by September 18.

To learn more or to join Senior Circle, call 708-489-7927 or visit SeniorCircle.com. See you in September.

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DoubleTree by Hilton in Alsip • RSVP by September 18: 708-489-7925

Village View

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SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 39 | Number 6 | September 18, 2012

Burbank, Evergreen Park, Hickory Hills, Justice, Oak Lawn

Justice resident challenges City Council approval

by Jan Glaz

On September 10th at the Village of Justice Board of Trustees Meeting the city council voted to approve the use of the Wm. O. Lipinski Community Center by the Justice Park District for their Winter Wonderland Program to be presented from December 13th to December 15th, 2012. The passing vote aroused the emotions of a female citizen attending the meeting. She vehemently questioned the Board of Trustees approval at this meeting when in fact the Wonderland Program at the Lipinski Center, date and time, had already been published weeks ago, before the vote. An explanation was offered that the approved event is held at the Lipinski Center every year. Trustee Kuban addressed the matter by commenting that the village had nothing scheduled with the Lipinski Center for that weekend and so today it was authorized. Refusing to concede her complaint, the resident replied, "I just thought that in government nothing goes passed until you have voted, evidently... it doesn't work that way."

Business License's approvals: Trustee Ed Rusch Jr. made a motion for the business license of Morris Gaming Inc., a duly licensed Gaming Terminal Operator doing business in Justice, and the license of Lugen Contractors Inc. at 8648 S. Roberts Road. By the request of Mayor Wasowicz, a possible action to reconsider the closing hours for serving and consumption of alcohol on premises from 2:00 am until 3:00 am on Friday into Saturday morning and Saturday into Sunday morning moved into an executive session.

Trick or Treat Warning: Trustee Small announced before adjournment that on Wednesday, October 31st, all trick or treating must be accomplished by 7:00 p.m. and start no earlier than 3:00 p.m. the designated hours received an unanimous vote.

Hickory Hills reveals plan to monitor sewer smoke

by Jan Glaz

Tom Lang, City Engineer, reported on the flow of smoke monitoring as far as the city's sanitary sewers are concerned at the September 13th City Council Meeting. Smoke testing refers to physical tests made to closed systems of pipes to test for leaks. Smoke emanating from sewer sites has been reduced from the time it was rated back in 2008-09 and 2011. "That's the good news. The bad side is that it's still in the neighborhood of twice as much as the approved ICAP rate from the '80's," said Tom Lang. Lang's report also stated that between 800 and 900 defects have been identified. The majority of findings related to private property and the city has to make a decision about these in the future, but the total volume of smoke flow stems from public property: cross connections where a storm sewer may cross a sanitary sewer and that is the area of the highest cost to the city. Unfortunately, the IEPA loan at this time would not fund anything in the private sector. A program incorporating televised data along with an accurate estimate of storm sewer main lines has to be assembled in short order to make it eligible for any kind of construction loan for 2013-14. Lang explained some of the problems of detecting smoke: "Maybe there is a heavy ground water one day or the sewers are so deep because of all the hills you just don't see the smoke coming up through the ground."

Before Alderman Waight made a motion to adjourn, Alderman Stachnik announced the apprehension of four individuals police believe are responsible for most of the burglaries that have been reported from February thru the end of August. Some proceeds have been recovered but the majority of items have been fenced to various outlets.

Oak Lawn releases investigative law firm report

by Matt Mayer

Officials unanimously approved a request to release an investigation report prepared by a Wisconsin based law firm, Godfrey and Kahn. The village hired the firm in May 2011 to investigate the law firm of Tressler, Soderstorm, Maloney and Price who was hired by Mayor Dave Heilmann and served as legal council for the village from November 2005 to September 2009. The firm was fired due to allegations of questionable billing practices and rising legal fees by a majority of board members.

The village paid in excess of $1 million to Tressler each year during that time frame. A settlement agreement with Tressler regarding the tripling of legal bills was reached in April in which the law firm extended to the village $500,000 in compensation. The firm also forgave a payment of $46,360, which was part of a $50,000 payment made by the village. The settlement also included a confidentiality agreement that was inserted by Tressler. There was also a payment of $20,000 from Cannon Cochran Management Services, a law firm that worked with the village in July 2007 as a third party administrator.

The village allowing the report to be released was promoted by Dr. Sandra Bury a resident and optometrist when she requested a copy of the Godfrey and Kahn report under the Freedom of Information Act the village denied the request. Bury then filed an appeal with the Attorney Generals office. Tressler a short time later informed the village that the firm would not fight Bury's appeal.

In other village news: Dr. Sandra Bury an optometrist and resident announced her candidacy at her office on September 5. She will challenge incumbent Mayor Dave Heilmann in the consolidated election on April 9, 2013 election. Jane Quinlan who was with Heilmann for the last two terms will seek a third term as an independent.

Evergreen Park approves compensation ordinance for officials

by Matt Mayer

Trustee Jerry Bosh was president pro tem at the Sept. 4 Evergreen Park Board of Trustees meeting while Mayor James Sexton continues to recover from the West Nile Virus.

Officials approved Ordinance 25-2012 amending chapter 2, administration, which changes the verbiage of section 2-27, Compensation of trustees and section 2-47 compensation of the mayor, and section 2-216, compensation of the village clerk, of the municipal code

Ordinance 23-2012 amending chapter 11, licenses taxation and miscellaneous business regulations, article 111, business regulations, certificates and permits, section 11-11 suspension revocation, and section 11-12 appeals of the municipal code of the village, that will now allow the mayor to hear cases pertaining to business license revocation. Ordinance 24-2012 which approves an addition ground space lease agreement with Cingular Wireless PCS (CWPCS) at 9558 S. Maplewood Avenue was approved allowing CWPCS to relocate their cell phone antenna from the rooftop of Little Company of Mary hospital while the hospital is undergoing renovation.

A request from Queen of Martyrs to hold their Annual Martyr-Fest on Sept. 21-23 along with a liquor license was approved as well as a request for the parish to hold their Annual Walk-A-Thon on Friday Sept. 28 with a rain date of Oct. 1. A request from St. Xavier University to hold their 12th Annual Cougar 5K Run/Walk on Saturday Sept. 29 was also approved. The week of Sept. 17-23 was proclaimed "Constitution Week" and Sept. 19 was proclaimed "No text on Board Pledge Day"

De La Salle athletic director Tom White. De La Salle girls swimming and water polo head coach Tina Grunauer, De La Salle assistant athletic director Anna Marassa

Tina Grunauer named swimming Coach at De La Salle

De La Salle Institute proudly announces that Tina Grunauer has been named its new varsity girls swimming and water polo head coach.

"Girls swimming and water polo are two sports that are drawing a great deal of interest at our school." De La Salle athletic director Tom White said.

"As the new girls swimming and water polo coach at De La Salle, I am very happy and impressed

"I am looking forward to bringing my knowledge and energy to the Meteor aquatics program, as well as to the many girls who I will be coaching. I am very excited to be a part of the Meteor family and look forward to the many great things ahead."

De La Salle congratulates Oak Lawn resident and Mother McAuley Graduate, Grunauer on her appointment and wishes her every future success.

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FAR SOUTH EDITION

Volume 10 | Number 18 | September 18, 2012

Oak Forest, Orland Park, Tinley Park

Orland's Police Camera Systems are faltering

by Jan Glaz

Currently, the Orland Park Police Department has a Panasonic Arbitrator In-Car Camera System installed in each marked patrol vehicle to provide an objective video and audio account of events as they actually occur during a traffic stop, traffic related offense, or DUI Investigation, to be later used as valuable evidence.

The original Panasonic Arbitrator video systems, purchased in 2007, are out of warranty and are beginning to malfunction more frequently. At the Orland Park Board of Trustees meeting September 4th the city council approved to replace two new systems in two police vehicles and keep the older functioning units in reserve for temporary replacement when current units malfunction and are taken out of service for repair. The Panasonic Arbitrator 360° is a rugged and durable mobile digital video system that can be used with the current Panasonic Toughbook, in-car computers. It is specifically engineered for law enforcement and provides a fully integrated system for video storage, transfer, archiving and retrieving. The police department will spend $8,393.20 from the DUI Fund Account for the purchase and installation of the Panasonic Arbitrator.

Mud jacking in Orland: In evaluating resident concerns and Staff's field observations, it became apparent that more than 165 squares of concrete had to be repaired. For many years, the Public Works Department has employed contractors to correct misaligned, unsafe public sidewalk squares by use of a mud jacking/concrete raising process which is more cost effective than removing and replacing the entire square. Holes are drilled into the slab and then concrete is pumped into the holes under the slab.

Last year, both the Parks and Public Works Departments utilized Quick Raising Concrete of Lockport, Illinois. The city was very pleased with their workmanship. This year, Quick Raising Concrete submitted the lowest quote. They relayed that the cost would remain the same as last year at $1.20 per square foot or $30 per sidewalk square. The board of trustees accepted the cost proposal for the fiscal year 2012 at a total amount not to exceed $9,500.

The city council agreed to grant a request for a landscape plan for the Tilted Kilt Sports Bar, to be located at 16255 LaGrange Road, before the meeting adjourned. Prior to building occupancy the landscape installation must be inspected and approved by the Village.

Restaurants, Pizza Parlors, Bakery's, Deli's, advertise early for Bosses Day and Sweetest Day, Call 708-425-1910, or www.villageviewls.weebly.com.

Oak Forest to save $300,000 on Bonds

by Jan Glaz

Aldermen were stunned at the dollar amount of a bond issuance refund reported by Finance Director Julian at the Oak Forest City Council Meeting on September 11th. A motion carried for Approval of Agreement, a contract with Kane, McKenna Capital, Inc., to act as the financial advisor to the City of Oak Forest relating to the issuance of Series 2012 bonds. Julian provided the details and explained that the issuance of bonds is really a refunding of the 2004A Issue, dating back to 2004. The rational is that interest rates have dropped giving opportunity to refinance which is called a refunding. After all the costs involved in the process the approximate refund is $300,000.

Sunset Sewer & Water became the recipient of a contract to carryout storm sewer improvements on Sara Ann Lane a neighborhood flood, hot spot. Continuous damage to resident's homes due to flooding in the area has been ongoing for many years and for just as many years the city has been trying to solve the problem. Baxter & Woodman Engineering had suggested resizing the culvert or raising a bike path, both options were in the $450,000-$460,000 price range. Troy Ishler, City Administrator, announced a plan based on a similar problem that met with success on Janet Court. Sunset Water and Sewer will be paid around $20,000 for labor and the city will pay for all other costs, about $40,000, for a total project cost estimate of $60,000. The Motor Fuel Tax Fund will fund the project.

Newsworthy: At meetings end the council agreed to annex into the city of Oak Forest (4) properties: 16332 Kedvale Avenue; 16334 Kedvale Avenue; 16336-40 Kedvale Avenue and 4217 West 163rd Street.

Orland Township to Accept Donations for "Make A Difference Day" Orland

Township, 14807 S. Ravinia Avenue, is participating in USA Weekend Magazine's annual "Make A Difference Day" on Saturday, October 27, 2012 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m..

Donations will be accepted at the Township for veterans residing at the Manteno Veterans Home.

Items that are needed include new sweatpants and sweatshirts (large and extra-large sizes), plain cotton socks without elastic, books on tape, spice drops, cookies, sugar free cookies, candy, sugar free candy, peanut butter crackers, chocolate (M&M's, etc.), large bottles of punch, wheelchair cup holders and ashtrays, powdered drink mixes, Fixodent denture adhesive, six-ounce foam cups, shaving balm, large bath towels, cologne (male and female), hair dressing (VO-5, Groom & Clean, etc.), toothpaste, toothbrushes and additional miscellaneous items.

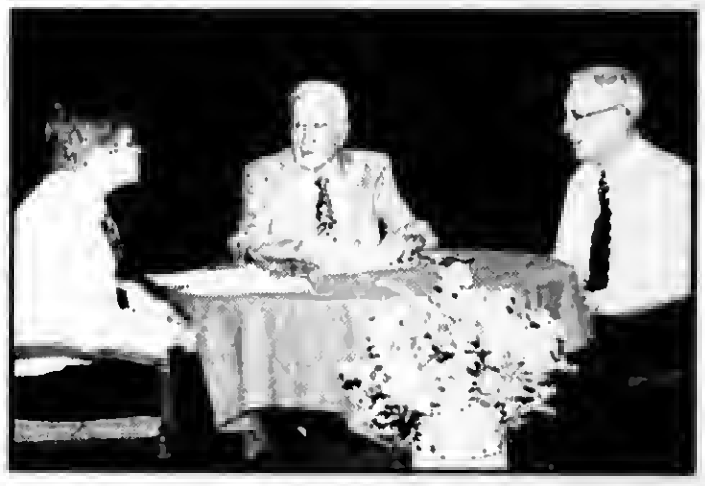
Monetary donations will also be accepted. Participants may donate prior to October 27 by delivering items to Orland Township during office hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Tuesday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Under the direction of Orland Township Supervisor Paul O'Grady and for the twelfth consecutive year, the township has once again selected Manteno Veterans Home as the recipient of its "Make A Difference Day" efforts.

"Year after year the residents of Orland Township have taken advantage of this day of service and have gone above and beyond for those who reside at the Veterans Home," said O'Grady. "The township will continue to support these valiant men and women for their honors again in 2012."

The Manteno Veterans' Home opened in 1986 and resides on 122 acres. It consists of five major nursing care units and two ancillary service and support buildings. The institution can house up to 340 eligible veterans, who are met with skilled care, in addition to Alzheimer Unit programs and services.

"Make a Difference Day" is an annual event that was created to promote community service and helping others. Participated in by millions, communities and towns across the country create and implement service programs and events to be conducted on one specific day.

The 2012 event is supported by Newman's Own and sponsored by USA Weekend, HandsOn Network and Citi. For additional information or to volunteer, please call (708) 403-4222 or visit www.orlandtwp.org.



Host of Community In Focus interviews Orland Park Mayor

Ed McElroy, host of "Community In Focus" recently interviewed Clem Balanoff, Deputy Cook County Clerk/ Chief of Staff and Dan McLaughlin, Mayor of Orland Park and Executive Director of Plumbing Contractors Association. The show airs on Friday, September 21st at 5 p.m. and again at noon on Sunday, September 23rd, on Senior Network Can TV, Channel 19. Pictured from the left are, Clem Balanoff, Ed McElroy and Mayor Dan McLaughlin.

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SOUTH SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 13 | Number 18 | September 18, 2012

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

Preston Morefield

Smith Crossing resident finds joy of eating helps to make new friends and keep the old

Preston Morefield was about 26 years old and a newly-minted lineman when a ComEd supervisor suggested he climb a 65-foot high telephone pole covered with ice. Morefield wore spikes on his shoes and a body harness with straps for lifting himself, but there was no assurance he would make it to the top. Not only that, the pole connected intersecting power lines which made it especially challenging to anchor the safety harness.

"I made it, hut I was shaking when I came down," says Morefield, now 82. "A lot of telephone poles now have steps, or the linemen use bucket trucks. This was a different era." As harrowing as that experience may have been, Morefield insists his 40-year career with ComEd, which started in 1953, was with "a great company."

Morefield resides at Smith Crossing, a continuing care retirement community (CCRC) located at 10501 Emilie Lane in Orland Park. He frequently drives to luncheon club meetings to meet with his former ComEd buddies.

During those hearty meals he enjoys reminiscing about his career, which included being promoted to troubleshooter and charged with the responsibility of determining the location of power disruptions. "I would find where the wires were down and cut the power," Morefield says. "The big wires carry 7,200 volts each and are extremely dangerous. They can burn craters into the pavement."

Morefield was instrumental in restoring power after the blizzard of 1967, which dumped 23 inches of snow on the Chicago area. That same year he helped restore power, as one of 3000 utility workmen, after a devastating tornado leveled over 300 homes, with winds at times measuring 600 m.p.h., in Oak Lawn.

In addition to lunching with his ComEd buddies, Morefield says he enjoys regularly sharing meals with fellow residents at Smith Crossing. "I enjoy them a lot," he says. "I've made some pretty good new friends with my fellow diners. The food is great too."

Realizing that meal times provide opportunities for socializing, Smith Crossing encourages residents to eat in the common dining area. The retirement community outfits tables with linen napkins and tablecloths, and retains the services of an executive chef to ensure that residents look forward to each and every meal. Independent living residents like Morefield also can cook in their own apartments, which feature complete kitchens, however most choose to participate in the dining plan, which includes two daily meals. Morefield adds, "I love eating with my friends so I don't do much cooking." Besides the Com Ed luncheon club, about the only other time Morefield doesn't eat with fellow Smith Crossing residents is after he drives himself to Saturday mass at Incarnation Catholic Church in Palos Heights. "On those days, I'll catch a bite to eat out, which is a nice change too."

Morefield grew up in Hodgkins, IL. Later he moved to Chicago's Bridgeport and Gage Park neighborhoods and finally to Palos Heights. He cherishes many memories of his work, of fishing with relatives for walleye in Wisconsin, of volunteering as chairman for a local Cub Scouts pack, and of traveling throughout the United States, Canada and the world with his late wife, Geraldine. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War.

Together the couple raised their son Michael and their daughter Donna. Morefield has four grandchildren.

Palos Heights Mayor says violating public trust is not tolerated

by Matt Mayer

Mayor Robert Straz, addressed to public at the Sept 4 Palos Heights City Council meeting regarding the arrest of the city's former building commissioner, Jim Dougherty, on Aug 31. He was charged with the theft of $600 pertaining to fees and fine payments that was unaccounted for, according to a police press release.

Mayor Straz said, "Some discrepancies in the building department have come to our attention. The city then conducted a six week investigation into what was believed to be mismanagement within the building department leading up to the arrest."

The city police along with Cook County States Attorney and Bureau of Public Integrity investigators interviewed several city employees in an effort to locate the source of the discrepancies regarding money. "We began an investigation where it became apparent that there was something wrong, at the very least mismanagement of the building department," said Straz.

"City employees are bestowed with an obligation to act in the best interest of the public. Anything violating that interest will not be tolerated; it's just not going to happen. So I terminated him for deficiencies in management and unprofessional behavior. This is the first time anything like this has happened and the last. The matter is still under investigation," said Straz.

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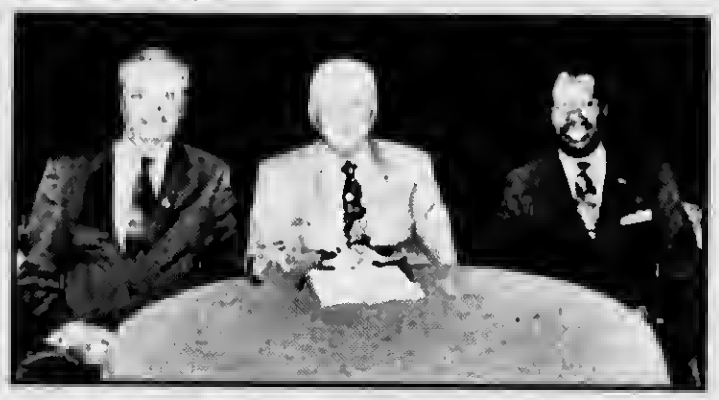

Judges being interview by McElroy

Ed McElroy, host of "Community In Focus" recently interviewed Judge Moshe Jacobius, Presiding Judge of Chancery Division and Judge E. Kenneth Wright, Jr., Presiding Judge of the 1st. District. The show airs on Friday, September 21st at 5 p.m. and again at noon on Sunday, September 23rd, on Senior Network Can TV, Channel 19. Pictured from the left are, Judge Moshe Jacobius, Ed McElroy and Judge E. Kenneth Wright, Jr.

America's Salute to Armed Forces Calling all military personnel, reservist and veterans. We Salute You

A Free Patriotic celebration to salute our Armed Forces Service men and women. Share in an afternoon of fellowship and appreciation for your courage and dedication. Those that have served in the United States Armed Forces in war time and peace time will be honored for their contribution and sacrifice to our great Nation. This celebration is proudly presented by Cook County Commissioner Joan Patricia Murphy, Miller/Coors Beer, Vitas Innovative Hospice Care, Dignity Memorial, and Double Tree Hotel by Hilton.

The 2nd. Annual "Salute to Our Armed Forces" ceremony and celebration will be held on Tuesday, October 2, 2012 at 1p.m. - 3p.m. at the Double Tree Hotel by Hilton. Located at 5000 W. 127th Street, in Alsip. All Honorees must pre-register to attend.

All branches of military service men and women will receive an Honorary "Salute Certificate" and custom designed Brass Commemorative Medallion. The Ceremony will also include a Color Guard presentation, POW-MIA Remembrance Service, noted guest speaker Reginald Booker and patriot entertainment. Refreshments will be served to all honorees and guests.

Registration is required. If you wish to be honored at this Patriot ceremony, You must call or mail to register for the event. Please list your name, branch of serve, phone number, address and number of guests attending. RSVP by September 27th. Call Commissioner Joan Patricia Murphy's Office at 708-389-2125. Mail information to the Office of Cook County Commissioner Joan Patricia Murphy, 5405 W. 127th Street, Crestwood, IL 60445 or Fax registration to 708.389.2240

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B-MAC EDITION

Volume 6 | Number 18 | September 18, 2012

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Midlothian Mayor favors posting text pledge at schools

by Jan Glaz.

On September 12th. at the Village of Midlothian board meeting Mayor Terrence Stephens announced a proclamation, the first ever. No Text on Board – Pledge Day, September 19. 2012.

Important facts surrounding the necessity of creating a Pledge Day are: Text messaging is the main mode of communication for most American teenagers and texting takes one's eyes off the road for an average of 5 seconds. Forty Three Percent of American teen age drivers admitted to texting while driving and 97% know it's dangerous.

A recent study showed that those who send text messages while driving are 23 times more likely to crash and a driver that sends a text message while driving jeopardizes his or her safety, the safety of passengers. pedestrians and other drivers. Drivers are encouraged to take the pledge to never drive and text again.

"I think I'm going push this at school." said the Mayor.

Of Interest. prior to adjournment: An enhanced tow fine for any driver facing a misdemeanor becomes reality under the newly approved ordinance amendment: Title X. Chapter 15 of the Village Code Relative to Administrative Charges for Towed Vehicles; permission to sell confiscated firearms to Paducah Shooters Supply. a reputable company that does business with law enforcement. in the amount of $3,000.00 met approval with the understanding that any serialized part of the weapons will be destroyed.

City council agreed to a proposal prepared by Colfax Corporation in the amount of $4,900.00 to remove 16 asbestos tiles in the Council Chambers. currently under renovation.

JOHN Z. TOSCAS ANNOUNCES HIS CANDIDACY FOR MAYOR OF CRESTWOOD.

John Z. Toscas announced his candidacy for Mayor of the Village of Crestwood. Jill McDonald is running for Village Clerk and Matthew Brady. Gary Carr and James Jurewicz are running for Village Trustee.

All five candidates will be running as a slate known as the "New Leadership Pany" in the Consolidated Election to held on April 9. 2013. John Toscas said. "for the past several years our residents have watched our and revenues plummet in the wake of the contaminated water scandal." John said, "each of us hope to be elected so that we can make a difference and bring pride back to our Village.

We intend to bring transparency and fiscal responsibility to our Village." John lives in Crestwood with his wife. Ann and three children for over 29 years. John is an Attorney. Administrative Law Judge/Hearing Officer. Worth Township Assessor and recently was elected as a Trustee in the Village of Crestwood.

John served as a Member of the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority and Chair of the Appeals Committee for over 9 years. He serves as the Chairman of the Fair Housing Review Board of Worth Township and was formerly the President and Member the Board of Education for School District 130. John was a former Prosecutor and Police Officer for many years prior to becoming an attorney. John has a Juris Doctorate Degree in Law, a Master's Degree in Public Administration and a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice.

Jill McDonald, candidate for Village Clerk is a teacher and has extensive experience as an office manager and bookkeeper. Jill attends Incarnation Parish and has been a volunteer Catechist there since 2009. Jill holds Certification for Secondary Education and is expecting her Master of Arts Degree in December. Jill lives in Crestwood with her husband Matt and two children for over 22 years.

Matthew Brady lives with his family in Crestwood for the past 23 years. He has an Associates Degree in Science from Moraine Valley Community College. Matt currently attends the University of Illinois at Chicago and is expected to graduate in the fall of 2012 with a degree in Mathematics and Education. Matt volunteers his time at Incarnation Parish and other charitable organizations. He is a Certified Soccer Referee with the United States Soccer Federation.

Gary Carr is a Police Officer with over 36 years of Law Enforcement experience. Gary is also an independent associate of a company that provides affordable legal counsel services. Gary has a Master's Degree in Public Safety Administration. a Bachelor's Degree in Law Enforcement Management and numerous law enforcement certificates. Gary has lived in Crestwood with his wife Diana for over 32 years.

James Jurewicz has been a Crestwood resident for over 24 years. He has an Associates Degree in Information Technology from Moraine Valley Community College. Jim works for Comcast Corporation for Business Class Services. He formerly was Vice President of Technology Management for UPS (United Parcel Service). Jim has two children and has served as a Member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for the Village of Crestwood.

Alsip Trustees open door to reduce Mayor's salary

by Jan Glaz

Not one resident. who participated in the open forums at the Village of Alsip Board Meetings in July and August, ever supported an Ordinance Establishing Compensation and Rate of Pay for Elected Officials of the Village of Alsip. Trustee Dalzell had created the ordinance and the majority of trustees favored the idea. Reducing Rate of Pay for Elected Officials opens the door to reduce the Mayors salary, and to hire a Village Administrator. invariably. changing the way Alsip conducts government and adding an additional cost burden to taxpayers. Amid public outrage. and after weeks of deliberations, the board of trustees agreed to approve the ordinance on September. 4th.

Mayor Kitching announced that the Alsip Corporate Home Depot would be sending him a gift card for $17,200. for a community project. "I've never had a gift card that large: I'm sure we'll be able to do something with that." said the Mayor.

Kitching then reported that a bus shelter with new sidewalk would be constructed along Pulaski Road and added. "Having talked with the executives and members of the Ozinga family. they have pledged to the village that whatever we need in the way of concrete for the entire project is ours for free." Trustee Ryan requested a motion to renew a Management Agreement between the Village of Alsip and Zeiler Management, Inc. regarding the village properties known as Heritage I and Heritage II Apartments.

Before agreeing Mayor Kitching questioned the type and frequency of advertising the Management Company at Heritage had contributed to renting out vacancies and was informed by Ryan that indeed Zeiler had and would continue to live up to their advertising promise.

In an effort to upgrade the Heritage properties the city council also approved requests for bids before the close of the meeting: Bids will be accepted for 116 patio doors at Heritage 1; 48 patio doors at Heritage 11 and 14 basement windows at Heritage 1: also. bids for blacktop replacement for both Heritage I and II apartments.

Fourth grader Julian Schmitt and his grandparents Linda and Jerry Kachnowski take in a math lesson at Paul Revere Intermediate School in Blue Island.

Grandparents Day celebrated at Paul Revere Intermediate School

Staff and students at Paul Revere Intermediate School in Blue Island chose to do something grand and opened their doors to grandparents and grandfriends the morning of Friday, September 7 in order to celebrate the importance of relationships across generations. A crowd of grandparents packed the halls of Paul Revere Intermediate and made their way into classrooms to take part in various activities with students.

Following their time spent in the classroom, grandparents were escorted to the cafeteria by students and served light refreshments while learning more about the school and its various upcoming events.

National Grandparents Day is observed on the first Sunday of September following Labor Day and was signed into law by President Jimmy Carter in 1978.

The Traffic Club of Chicago Executive Series Luncheon

"Air Cargo and Airlines: Status and Outlook"

The Traffic Club of Chicago, one of the nation's oldest and finest transportation associations, announces the next Executive Series Luncheon, Thursday, September 20, 2012 at Avalon Banquets, 1905 E. Higgins Road, Elk Grove Village, IL. There will be a cash bar from 11:30am and luncheon at 12:15pm.

Robbie Anderson, president of United Cargo

The guest speaker will be Robbie Anderson, president of United Cargo.

"The Traffic Club of Chicago and United Airlines share a similar mission: to have a widespread positive impact on the world's transportation and logistics from our historic base in Chicago," says Anderson. "So I am very pleased to have the opportunity to discuss the airline and air cargo industries, and United's role in both, with Traffic Club members and their guests."

As Chicago's hometown airline, United has a unique and vital role in the region's transportation and logistics industries. Mr. Anderson will discuss the current state and significant trends of the airline and air cargo industries and the importance of air cargo as an economic engine in the region. He will also review the latest developments in United's fleet, network and facilities and the progress of United's integration into a single carrier.

Tickets for members is $45, guest of members $35 (limit two; additional guests, $45 each), non-member is $55

Advance reservations recommended. Call 1-630-529-1333 or email staff@trfclub-chicago.org

About The Traffic Club of Chicago

The Traffic Club of Chicago, founded in 1907, is one of the nation's oldest and finest transportation associations. The Club is dedicated to maintaining the highest standards of the transportation and logistics industry, keeping its members abreast of industry happenings, while at the same time assuming a responsible role in civic, cultural and charitable activities in the Chicago area. Members enjoy many benefits, including access to private dining and country clubs around the Chicago area, as well as across the country and overseas. An annual schedule of programs and events provides opportunities to network with industry professionals. A scholarship program supports the organization's philosophy of direction and guidance. Headquartered in Bloomingdale, Illinois, the Club publishes a monthly newsletter, "The Waybill". More information can be found at www.traffic-club.org and www.facebook.com.

Orland Park Area Chamber Celebrates Opening Dave & Buster's

Dave & Buster's Opens in Orland Park

Join members of the Orland Park Area Chamber for a Ribbon Cutting event to celebrate the opening of the newest location for Dave & Buster's. The ribbon cutting celebration will be held on Saturday, September 22 at 10:45 a.m. Dave & Buster's is located at 39 Orland Square in Orland Park. There is no fee for admission and all are welcome to attend. The Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce is a not-for-profit organization that serves as the primary resource for business and the community in Orland Park and the surrounding suburbs. For more information on becoming a member of the Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce or to RSVP for this event, please call (708) 349-2972 or visit the chamber website at www.orlandparkchamber.org.

Lipinski's Bill to Boost American Manufacturing Passes

House on Strong Bipartisan Vote, Heads to Senate

Legislation introduced by Rep. Dan Lipinski (D-Ill.) to require the development of a national strategy to revitalize American manufacturing and create good-paying middle class jobs was approved today by the U.S. House of Representatives with the strong support and help of Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-Ill.). The American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act, H.R. 5865, passed with an overwhelming vote, 339-77. The House's approval sets up the opportunity for Senate consideration prior to the year's end.

"At a time when the political environment is highly polarized and Congress is not doing much besides bickering, I am especially proud to have moved this bipartisan bill forward in order to commit our nation to boosting manufacturing and growing jobs for the middle class," Rep. Lipinski stated. "Manufacturing is a linchpin of our nation's economy. It has provided the American middle class with a source of quality jobs, making everything from the goods we rely on for our everyday needs, to the equipment our national security depends upon. But in the first decade of this century, American manufacturing took a hard hit. Almost one-third of American manufacturing jobs disappeared. After 110 years as the world's top manufacturing nation, America got knocked off its perch by China. I have seen the devastation in my district and across northeastern Illinois. And I get frustrated, just like countless other Americans, when I cannot find the words "Made in U.S.A." on any products when I go shopping. Some say this is inevitable, but it does not have to be. I am very pleased that the House has passed this bill with a very large, bipartisan majority. I thank Rep. Kinzinger for working across the aisle and helping move this bill forward as a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee."

H.R. 5865 will bring the public and private sectors together, along with members of both parties, to forge an actionable plan to promote the success of American manufacturing. The bill creates a bipartisan Manufacturing Competitiveness Board consisting of 15 members, five appointed by the president – including two governors from different parties – and 10 from the private sector appointed by the House and Senate, with the majority appointing three and the minority two in each chamber. The Board will conduct a comprehensive analysis of the U.S. and global manufacturing sectors, covering everything from trade issues to taxation, regulation, research, education, and new technologies. Based on this analysis, it will develop a strategy that includes goals and specific recommendations for achieving these goals. The first strategy is due in 2014 and the second in 2018. This quadrennial strategic approach is modeled on the Defense Department's policy planning effort, the Quadrennial Defense Review.

Despite job losses and outsoureing, American manufacturers remain the world's most productive, employing 11 million people and producing $1.7 trillion annually. With labor costs rising in China and cheap natural gas available here at home, many companies are considering locating factories in the United States. A coordinated manufacturing policy will help create the best possible environment for the private sector to take advantage of these opportunities and grow domestic manufacturing.

"According to the World Economic Forum, the United States has fallen from 1st to 7th in global competitiveness, reflecting an inability to do the things we need to do to support our manufacturing sector. Today's passage of the American Manufacturing Competitiveness Acts changes that. We sit on the brink of a manufacturing renaissance," said Rep. Adam Kinzinger, lead Republican cosponsor of H.R. 5865. "We have the most productive workers in the world, the highest quality of products, and, now, an opportunity to support our manufacturing base for years to come by developing a long-term strategy. I am proud to have worked with Congressman Lipinski on this bipartisan legislation to increase our competitiveness and create high paying jobs that will rebuild the middle class," Kinzinger stated.

"As a business owner, I know planning is critical," said Zach Mottl, Director of Development for Atlas Tool & Die Works of Lyons, which has been owned by his family since 1918. "Plan, execute, review; that is the core of any good business model. Unfortunately, when an organization doesn't operate with a plan, what occurs is a plan to fail. Right now the United States is operating without a manufacturing strategy in a world where other countries are intensely focused on helping their manufacturers to compete. The American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act will bring all sides and stakeholders together to forge a strategy with broad support and the momentum needed to produce action. I applaud Rep. Lipinski for his leadership in introducing this bill and thank Rep. Kinzinger for his efforts as well."

"One of the best kept secrets in Washington is that the decline of manufacturing has been a major cause of America's economic predicament," said Robert Atkinson, President of the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation. "The countries poised to compete successfully in today's global economy have strategies for sustaining vibrant, dynamic manufacturing sectors. The United States lacks such a strategy at great peril. With its broad, bipartisan support, the American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act should pass Congress easily. We can no longer delay taking an honest look at what we've lost already from our inattention to manufacturing. We must get moving on a plan to revitalize our industrial base, and the Act creates a vital framework for doing so."

"Having grown up in a neighborhood surrounded by manufacturing plants, I understand how important this industry is for middle class families and for communities," Rep. Lipinski said. "Not only do manufacturing companies provide huge numbers of jobs – while Facebook employs about 3,000 people, Boeing employs 172,000 - manufacturing has greater spillover effects, with every job supporting numerous additional jobs. When we lose manufacturing due to outsourcing, we lose the ability to create the breakthrough technologies of tomorrow – as occurred when consumer electronics manufacturing migrated to Asia and became a source of revolutionary battery technologies. Naysayers should consider the case of Germany, where manufacturing labor costs are 25 percent higher than in the U.S., yet manufacturing employment basically held steady there at a time that we lost 6.2 million jobs here. After a decade that saw Washington turn its back on manufacturing even as other countries sought to give their manufacturers every advantage, we need a national strategy that unleashes this vital sector of the American economy."

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We have found that through the years of publishing the readers are interested in general information and also local happenings within their community. Therefore because we are fully electronic, we will not be accepting faxed or mailed news releases.

Orland Township to Conduct Medicare Seminar

Orland Township will present a free Medicare seminar on Tuesday, October 9, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Orland Township Board Room, 14807 So. Ravinia, Orland Park. This seminar will cover all aspects of Medicare, including Enrollment Periods; Parts A & B Benefits, Deductibles & Benefit Periods; Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Assistance, which became effective in January of 2006; Assignment/ Non-Assignment; Home Health Care/Hospice Care; Skilled Nursing Facilities; Managed Care; Supplemental Insurance Policies; Low-Income Programs; and SHIP (Senior Health Insurance Program). Refreshments will be served.

To register for this FREE seminar, please contact the Orland Township office at (708) 403-4222.

Center for Integrated Medicine Celebrates One Year

Multi Chamber Event Marks Anniversary

Celebrate the One Year Anniversary for The Center for Integrated Medicine at this multi chamber Business After Hours event on Thursday, September 27 at 5:00 pm. The Center is located at 9442 W. 179th Street in Tinley Park. There is no fee for admission and all are welcome to attend. Enjoy chair massages, entertainment and refreshments as you mingle with the members of these local Chambers of Commerce.

The Center for Integrated Medicine strives to provide high quality, affordable patient care by integrating alternative, complementary, conservative, traditional, and aggressive medicine into a team-oriented approach.

The Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce is a not-for-profit organization that serves as the primary resource for business and the community in Orland Park and the surrounding suburbs. For more information on becoming a member of the Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce or to RSVP for this event, please call (708) 349-2972 or visit the chamber website at www.orlandpark-chamber.org.

Christkindle Market

Fall is in the air and that means the fun of shopping at local Craft Fairs! Trinity Lutheran Church, 9701 S. Brandt Avenue in Oak Lawn will again host their Annual Fall Craft Fair which will be the 2nd Annual Christ-Kindle Market.

The ChristKindle Market will be held on Saturday, November 10 from 9 – 2 PM. Featured at the Market will be a European Bake Sale with special homemade items. Professional Crafters and Vendors, Fall Décor, Christmas items for personal decorating and gifts. Raffle and a wunderbar menu serving lunch! The menu will include hot dogs, bratwurst and potato pancakes along with other homemade items. Spaces are available for crafters. Please contact the church office at 708-422-0193 for an application. We hope you plan to come to the Market!

Super-Couponing Workshop

Super-Couponing Queen, Jill Cataldo, will present her workshop on Thursday, October 18th at 7:00pm at the Midlothian Public Library, 14701 S. Kenton Ave., Midlothian, Il. At "Super-Couponing", participants will learn how to maximize your grocery savings and purchase hundreds of dollars worth of groceries for just pennies! We'll teach the couponing secrets of the pros, which stores will let shoppers stack multiple coupons, how to track sales and discounts online, and best of all - how to get the store to pay you to shop. You'll learn the number one mistake most couponers make, as well as an efficient way to plan shopping trips in the least amount of time for the most effective savings. For more information or registration, call the Reference Desk at 708-535-2027 or visit www.midlothianlibrary.org.

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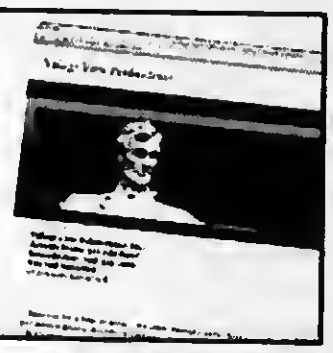

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HOMECOMING DANCE!
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performing on our
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Bring a date and dress to impress!

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Book Your Events Here!
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- Adult Bar & Catering Packages
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FREE Trivia Mondays
Starting Monday, September 24th at 8:00 pm!
- $10 Domestic Buckets
- $1 Mini Sliders
- $3 Shots
- Prizes

ALL BEARS GAMES
$25 DRINK & FOOD DEALS

Live Entertainment

Saturday, Sept. 28	Homecoming Dance *feat. Will-Sun Soul Co.*
Friday, Oct. 12	Bighit Bluesband
Saturday, Oct. 27	Halloween Hoe-Down *feat. The Inlaws Band*
Saturday, Nov. 10	Johnny & Coax
Saturday, Dec. 1	BIG LEBOWSKI DAY *details coming soon*

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Senior Jacquelin Maciel and Rev. Andrew Smith share a smile during the procession back to Maria High School following the opening school liturgy. Fr. Smith reminded those in attendance that Maria does not exist in a building; it lives in the hearts of all those who have been touched by her.

Maria High School celebrates opening liturgy

A steady downpour threatened to wreak havoc with Maria High School's opening liturgy on Friday, September 7th as the celebration included a school-wide procession to the Sisters of St. Casimir (SSC) Motherhouse. Fortunately, a few timely prayers and the cooperation of the weatherman cleared the skies and brought the sun out so that the event could go on with only a minimal delay.

The opening school liturgy is a tradition at Maria which this year marks its 101st – and final – year of educating young women from Chicago's south side. A procession of students, faculty, and staff down Marquette Road concluded at the Motherhouse where all were warmly greeted by Sr. Immacula Wendt, General Superior of the SSC; Sr. Regina Dubickas, Assistant General Superior of the SSC; and Sr. Margaret Zalot, President Emerita of Maria High School.

The Maria community then joined the rest of the Sisters and other guests in the chapel for a moving liturgy celebrated by Fr. Andrew Smith of Chicago's Holy Angels Church.

In his homily, Fr. Smith praised the Sisters for their century long commitment to the young women of St. Casimir Academy/Maria High School. He reminded the students that they are fortunate to be part of this community of believers and learners and that through their lives and their legacies, Maria will live on for another century. He explained to those present that Maria High School is so much more than a building; it is a spirit that will continue to thrive within each Sister, each student, each teacher, each alumna.

Following Mass was a commissioning ceremony at which the entire staff rededicated themselves to the Mission of Maria High School. Sr. Immacula told the gathered faculty and staff that "it is a joy and a privilege to ask each of you to continue the legacy of Mother Maria and the Sisters of St. Casimir."

Maria High School President Wendy Lynn then invited faculty and staff members to the front of the chapel where each received his commission and participated in a commitment prayer.

St. Laurence High School Hosts Viking Pride Dinner

St. Laurence High School, "the place where leadership begins," will be hosting their tenth annual Viking Pride Dinner to honor and celebrate ten outstanding alumni and one great team being enshrined into the Athletic Hall of Fame. The dinner will be held in the cafeteria at St. Laurence on Friday, November 2, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

This year's inductees represent several different sports at St. Laurence. There are eight Viking alums and two coaches who will be inducted into the Hall of Fame. Joseph Cascone '87 and James Czajkowski '91 were both on the wrestling team. Thomas Dubsky '88 played hockey during his time at St. Laurence. Eric Fischer '87 was a water polo player. Football players Paul Glonek '86 and Edward Lynch '90 will also be inducted, along with cross country and track runner Pasquale Perez '90 and tennis player Tom Reynolds '76.

The two coaches who will join the players in the Hall of Fame are James Caliendo, who coached swimming and water polo, and Thomas Gauger, who coached wrestling. The 1987 State Semi-Finalist Baseball team will also be honored with their induction to the Hall of Fame.

Tickets for the Viking Pride Dinner are $60 per person, which includes a buffet and an open bar. Alums, spouses, and friends are welcome to attend. If you would like to purchase tickets or for more information, contact Mr. Harold Blackmon in the Alumni Office at (708) 458-6900, ext. 253 or by e-mail at hblackmon@stlaurence.com.

Volunteers Needed at District 130 Schools

Cook County School District 130 is seeking volunteers to help at the elementary, intermediate, and middle school levels. Volunteers are needed to help read to students; assist in the library, act as a mentor, help out in the main office, assist in the lunchroom or at recess, and much more. Volunteers may donate their time between the hours of 8 am and 2:45 pm when school is in session and there is no minimum amount of time required.

Volunteers in the Reading Buddy program give their time by reading and listening to students read at least one hour per week. Most volunteers will work with students in kindergarten through fifth grade and they are very helpful to students who are in need of extra attention with reading and language arts. The District also works closely with the City of Blue Island's Senior Citizen's Office to promote this reading initiative and meetings are held at the 911 Center in Blue Island for volunteers to give feedback, socialize, and share reading strategies.

If you are interested in helping to build a stronger community through volunteering at the school in your area please contact Kate Wohlgemuth, PPS coordinator, at 708-489-7412 or via email at kwohlgemuth@district130.org. Applications are available at each of the schools in the District or interested adults can also call the Pupil Personnel Services department and an application will be mailed to you. The District also requires volunteers to go through a background check before being placed at one of the District's schools.

Cook County School District 130 serves nearly 4,100 students at thirteen school sites. The district serves portions of the communities of: Alsip, Blue Island, Crestwood and Robbins.

Evergreen Park High School Seniors Report on American Legion Auxiliary's Illini Girls State

Evergreen Park Community High School seniors Brittney De Mik and Maggie O'Toole, with Melissa Mann as alternate, were selected to participate in the Auxiliary's 72nd session of Illini Girls State last June. Participants have been invited to attend the Evergreen Park American Legion Auxiliary's monthly meeting on Monday, September 24, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. to report on their experiences. The Auxiliary, sponsored the young women's attendance at the week-long session on Eastern Illinois University's campus in Charleston, IL. Illini Girls State is a practical application of Americanism and good citizenship, and is an intense learning experience that simulates Illinois Governmental procedure for girls who have just completed their junior year of high school. Girls learn how a two-party system works, elect officials, introduce and pass bills, and hold mock court trials. Girls from communities throughout the State of Illinois were selected to participate this year. The American Legion Auxiliary, located at 9701 S. Kedzie Ave., promotes patriotism and is committed to helping active service men and women, veterans and their dependents, youth in the community, and the community as a whole. To learn about eligibility and membership in the Auxiliary, call Dian Kinahan at 708-229-2129.

Fall Run & Fest

Volunteer Opportunity

The Children's Museum in Oak Lawn has a FUN way to get up to 7 hours of Community Service. The Fall Fun Run & Fest will be held on Saturday, October 6th – 5k race starts at 8am and Fall Fest is from 9am to 1pm. The museum is looking for great volunteers from 7am to 10:30am, and 10:30am to 2pm. You can do one shift or both shifts. Volunteers will be helping with the 5k race by blocking designated streets to make sure runners stay on the course, handing water to runners, cheering runners on, and helping with set-up and break down. Volunteers helping with Fall Fun Fest will be helping set up vendor tables, directing traffic, playing at activity tables, and helping breakdown the event. If you are interested in being a part of this FUN day, please contact Bernadette at Bernadette@cmoaklawn.org or at 708.423.6709 ext. 204.

Fun Run and Fall Fun Fest (Sponsored By: Advocate Christ Medical Center & Qdoba): The Children's Museum in Oak Lawn is excited to be combining two of our most successful events for one full day of FUN! Join us for our Fun Run 5K and our Fall Fun Fest on October 6th. Last year we welcomed over 1,500 people and this year with additional marketing and promotion, we expect even more. The day will be filled with fun activities for the whole family such as trackless train, inflatable jumpy, craft vendors, special entertainment and so much more! For more information, please contact Bernadette at 708-423-6709 ext 204 or at Bernadette@cmoaklawn.org

7am Racer Registration

8am 5K Run. $25 pre-registration* (before 10/1/2012) fee required ($30 after 10/1/2012)

9am Kid's Dash, $10 registration required

9am-1pm Fall Fun Fest

*Online registration is available on our website at www.cmoaklawn.org

Sponsorships are also available! For more information, please contact Bernadette at 708-423-6709 ext 204 or at Bernadette@cmoaklawn.org

Looking to Volunteer? The Children's Museum in Oak Lawn is looking for volunteers. Whether you are in high school and need service hours for graduation or unemployed and simply need to get out of the house for awhile, being a volunteer at the Children's Museum in Oak Lawn can be very rewarding.

Interested in learning more? Come by the museum on Friday, September 28th and October 12th at 4:30pm for volunteer orientation. You'll learn the basics about volunteering at the museum and be given the application forms you need to complete. Also, the museum accepts volunteers ages 13-years-old and older. We do NOT take court appointed hours.

Any questions can be directed to Barb McMillin at (708) 423-6709 extension 203 or barb.mcmillin@cmoaklawn.org

St. Rita's Inaugural Soccer Team of 1967 Honored

45 years ago Lyndon B. Johnson was the President of the United States. "Bonnie and Clyde" was the highest grossing movie, and I'm a Believer by the Monkees was at the top of the billboard charts. 1967 was a big year and St. Rita High School was no exception. That was the inaugural season for the St. Rita Soccer team. Times were different back then, the team only played 3 games that year and they all came against the same opponent: Loyola Academy. Unfortunately for the Mustangs, the first season ended with 3 losses but the groundwork for success and excellence was laid.

"That team is the original heart and soul of this program," current head Soccer Coach Tim McCarthy stated. "Without that team we may not have the opportunities we do to play a game we love for a school we love." The soccer program has soared to levels it has never seen before over the past decade winning multiple championships and having numerous athletes recognized for their great play on the field.

The program invited members from the 1967 team back to Doyle Stadium on Thursday night to get the recognition and honor they deserve. Three members of the team, defender David Fedro, defender Joe Freeman, and the record setting goalie, Werner Koos were all in attendance. While the coach of the 1967 team could not make the ceremony, he is no stranger to Doyle Stadium being the Head Soccer Coach at neighborhood rival Brother Rice High School for the past 30 years. At halftime all three members were brought onto the field to a great ovation and the members of the 2012 St. Rita Soccer team got to shake hands and take pictures with members of the 1967 team. It was truly a great night for the St. Rita community.

Unfortunately, the team would lose to Kennedy High School 2-0 with both scores coming in the first half. The Mustangs controlled the play and pace of the game in the second half putting 8 shots on net with two almost converting. With the loss the team moves to 1-4 on the young season and will travel to St. Patrick on Saturday with a game scheduled to kickoff at 2:00pm.

Come to the Fair!

The 15th Annual Health & Fun Fair hosted by the Crestwood Fire Department Saturday, October 6, 2012 from 9:00 to 1:00pm at Nathan Hale Middle School, 5220 W. 135th Street, Crestwood, IL.

The Crestwood Fire Department is hosting the 15th Annual Health & Fun Fair to raise money for much needed firefighting, training and communication equipment to benefit our village.

We are inviting all businesses in Crestwood and neighboring towns to participate in our fair by setting up a booth to highlight your business to the more than 2000 people who enjoy our fair each year. We are also inviting all crafters to join us again this year and set up a booth to peddle your wares. New this year- there will be an outdoor farmer's market, and we welcome all vendors to join us. Please contact Christine at 708-743-5224 for further information.

Highlights of the Fair include:

- An all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast prepared by the chefs of Applebee's Restaurant in Crestwood - $6.00 per person
- Haircuts by John Amico School of Hair Design for a donation of $5.00, with proceeds going to the Crestwood Fire Department
- Flu Vaccines and Pneumonia Vaccines given by Dominick's Pharmacy of Palos Heights. (Cost to be determined when vaccine is released.) There is no charge to Medicare recipients with proof of insurance.
- Ingalls Memorial Hospital will have a full team of personnel to draw blood at reduced rates to screen for Diabetes, Cholesterol, Prostate Cancer, Anemia, Thyroid Disorders and Cardiac Risk.
- Performance by the award-winning competition team from Stage Door Dance Academy in Oak Forest
- The Teddy Bear Clinic - sponsored by the Midwestern University Medicine Club, where each child receives a teddy bear
- Safeguard your children with Fingerprinting by the Crestwood Police Department
- Demonstration by the Illinois State Police Canine Unit
- New this year- an outdoor Farmer's Market

Mark your calendars for October 6th and come enjoy this family event!

St. Laurence High School Mothers' Club

All Dabber Super Bingo

Total Payout $2250

Sunday
October 14, 2012

St. Laurence High School
5556 W. 77th Street, Burbank (77th & Central Ave)
Entrance and Parking at the North end of the building
Tickets $20.00 - $1 Door Card

Doors Open 12:00 noon. Games begin at 2:00pm.

Pull Tabs * Great Food * Bake Sale * Free Coffee
Plenty of parking

For tickets or more details, call Mothers' Club
708-458-6900 ext 411 or email momsclub@stlaurence.com
Mark your payment envelope: Mothers Club Super Bingo
Limited tickets available - Cash only at the door

You're Cordially Invited to the 12th Annual Vasa Park

FISH BOIL & HARVEST FEST

with Special Entertainment by Fox Valley Grass

Saturday, October 6, 2012

1:00 pm to 5:00 pm - Boil at 2:00 pm Serving Immediately

VASA PARK

Presented by Scandinavian Park, Inc. NFP, Vasa Park, Route 31, South Elgin, IL
The "Boil" will take place at 2:00 P.M. serving immediately following.
SPECIAL 12 & UNDER MEAL FOR $5 - INCLUDES PUMPKIN DECORATING
Come join in the fun of this last public event of the season to visit with "old" friends and make some new ones along the way! All the "Fixens" plus coffee & dessert are included for donations of: $20 per adult by 9/28 or $25 (9/29 - 10/6)

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At Machu Picchu

Left to Right: Mr. Carl Garza, Br. Tim Smyth, Peter Kopacz, Mr. Nate Grosse, Lorenzo Morales, Carlos Garza, Nick Nickolettos

Young Men on a Mission: St. Laurence Sends Students to Peru

By Brother Tim Smyth

Four Saint Laurence students, two teachers, and one parent represented Saint Laurence on a ten-day mission trip to Peru this past June. Following the Second Vatican Council, and the request of Pope Paul VI, the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers established a number of missions in Peru. In the past, "mission money" was collected during Religion classes to help support these missions. Recently some of our schools in the North American province have decided to do more than just send the change from their lunch money to the missions - they decided to go themselves. These schools, along with the Province Leadership Team, have encouraged more schools of the Province to become involved in these mission trips. This June was the first time Saint Laurence was added to the list.

In preparing for the trip, Spanish teacher Nate Grosse coordinated with Brother Steve Casey to plan what the Saint Laurence group would hope to accomplish during their time in Peru. Brother Casey is a North American Brother assigned to Peru for that purpose. His philosophy is to expose the students to as much of the Peruvian reality as possible.

While in Peru, the Saint Laurence mission group helped tear down and rebuild a house (granted not a very large house), visited a home for Peruvian children in need of medical care, spent time with toddlers at an orphanage, played with children in a pre-school, visited classrooms, and enjoyed a marshmallow roast with students their own age. For a deeper understanding of the history and culture of the Peruvian people, especially from the Inca influence, the group spent a few days in Cusco, Ollantaytambo, and Machu Picchu.

Hopefully, this mission trip will be the first in a series, and the larger Saint Laurence community will be willing to offer its support by contributing the change from their lunch money once again. Some may even join us next summer, or some summer after that.

ST. LAURENCE HIGH SCHOOL
"Where Leadership Begins"

VIKING VISIT DAYS
Friday, October 5
Monday, October 8
To schedule a visit on these days or any day of the year, contact the Admissions Office at (708) 458-6900, ext. 252

HOMECOMING
Friday, October 12 vs. De La Salle

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Alsip-Merrionette Park Public Library

Career Paths and Coffee: First Step to A New Future

Wednesday, September 19 at 7:00 PM

Peggy Heenan, Admission & Outreach Representative from Moraine Valley Community College, will do the presentation. This one hour information session is for adults considering college to earn a degree, update job skills, or explore a new career. Join her to learn about the programs and resources at Moraine Valley Community College to help you reach your education and career goals. Limited to 30 registered patrons.

Fall Feast

Wednesday, September 26 at 7:00 PM

Join Chef Kate Bradley as she presents recipes for your own fall feast. Sample warm pumpkin soup, a fall salad, rhubarb chutney, pulled pork and apple muffins! Instructions and recipes are provided. Limited to 30 registered patrons.

Computer Classes

By popular demand, we will be offering two adult computer classes. John Hojek will be your instructor. Registration must be in-person at the Reference Desk with a valid AMPL library card or ID. There will be a $10 non-refundable registration fee for each class for residents of the Alsip-Merrionette Park Library District. The non-refundable fee for non-residents is $25. If the class does not meet the minimum requirement of 8 students, your fee will be reimbursed. Alsip-Merrionette Park Public Library District residents will have priority and non-residents will be placed on a waiting list. If you can't attend the class for any reason, we ask that you cancel 72 hours in advance to allow another patron to attend the class. If you fail to do so, or don't show up the day of the class, you will be ineligible for any other computer class. If you have questions, please call the Reference Desk at 708/371-5666 ext. 109.

Beginning Computers

Friday, September 21, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Beginning Internet

Friday, October 19, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Book Discussion Group

The Alsip-Merrionette Park Public Library's Adult Book Discussion Group meets on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. To register, please contact the Adult Services Department.

October 4: Defending Jacob by William Landay

November 1: State of Wonder by Ann Patchett

December 6: Undress Me in the Temple of Heaven by Susan Jane Gilman

Alsip-Merrionette Park Public Library temporary location is 12838 S. Cicero Avenue.

To register, or for more information call 708/371-5666 or visit our website www.alsiplibrary.info.

"Trinity Travelers go to the Mountains of North Carolina"

Trinity Lutheran Church in Oak Lawn Adult Travel group will travel this fall going south! Driving through the beautiful states of Kentucky, Tennessee, and on to North Carolina where we will visit the Biltmore Mansion, Carl Sandburg's Home & Farm, Lake Lure, Grandfather Mountain and stop in Berea, KY on the way home. The dates for travel are October 8-13. We travel on Trinity's Bus and have a great time together. For more information contact Linda Bensen at Trinity 708-422-0193.

200th anniversary of Fort Dearborn Battle-Potawatami, Chicagoans joined together for Reconciliation on Sept. 8th,2012. ***Native Americans, Battle Descendants, Re-enactors, Military Honor Guards, Historians and Political Leaders were among groups that participated in Significant Chicago Commemoration at Battle Site***

Chicagoans gathered for the 6th Annual Family Festival of Prairie District Neighborhood Alliance. It was held at 1800 South Prairie. Chicago, an historic sight. Children of all ages were having a nice day of complete entertainment. The committee of the PDMA. headed by the President. Tina Feldstein was outstanding in their selection of entertainment for the children. Including all entertainment. the most used was the inflatable bounce houses and moon walks.

The afternoon of Saturday. September 8th was a sunny day and the children and their parents were out in numbers. considering there were many events. going on in Millennium Park and elsewhere. it was well attended.

The 200 year anniversary of the Battle of Fort Dearborn was the reason I was there. but also the free touring of the Clarke House Museum and Glessner House Museum was available from Noon until 6:00 pm.

Children had their face painted. they had pony rides and a petting zoo. a magician. Native American Story Teller. Art and Craft for Children. Balloon Art. and food. The children were happy campers. Once there. they didn't seem to want to leave. All of this was for a $5 donation.

Kathy Haas. State President of U.S. Daughters of the War of 1812; William Tyre. Author of Chicago's Historic Prairie Ave. and Executive Director Glessner House Museum; Jerry Crimmins. Author. Fort Dearborn; Col. Thomas Purple. Director of Logistic (J4) Illinois National Guard Joint Staff; Russell Lewis. Executive Vice President and Chief Historian Chicago History Museum; Robert W. Fioretti. 2nd Ward Alderman; Speaker Tina Feldstein. President of Prairie District Neighborhood Alliance

The 200-year anniversary of the Battle of Fort Dearborn was commemorated at the site of the 1812 battle. Several events were held Saturday, Sept. 8 on Prairie Avenue and 18th Street in Chicago's South Loop neighborhood. Several groups. including the Prairie District Neighborhood Alliance (PDNA), marked this important Chicago milestone at the 6th Annual Festival on Prairie Avenue. The commemoration was at 2:30 p.m. and it included: 1812 Infantry soldier re-enactors and the Illinois Guard provided a ceremonial honor guard. Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Eagle Staff veterans and elders provided prayer. as well as ceremonial Native American drumming and dance to open the ceremony. The American Indian Center. the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian and Native American historians joined in partnership for commemoration. The Chicago History Museum's Chief Historian provides a historical overview focused on reconciliation and memorial.The IL Army National Guard. the Daughters of the War of 1812. the Pritzker Military Library and the Illinois Commission on the War of 1812 honor Ensign George Ronan, who was killed on August 15. 1812 in the Battle of Fort Dearborn and who was the first West Point graduate to die in battle 2nd Ward Ald. Robert Fioretti, among others recognized Chicago's city council spoke of the resolution of reconciliation and remembrance. A Native American flute player, storyteller. Native American crafts. a War of 1812 encampment, tours of the Battle of Fort Dearborn Park.

This year the Art and Crafts fair at the festival featured many artists including: Jack Simmerling, an important artist whose original art work and lithographs have been featured throughout Chicago and the United States. Dobrila Pintar, an outstanding artist whose work with lampwork heads, lampwork jewelry. glass sculpture and metal smithing was available for questions.

Festival food sponsors: Café Society and Reggie's cook up a classic picnic barbecue with hamburgers. hot dogs. pulled pork sandwiches. pizza, wings and mac & cheese. Gigi's Cupcakes will be providing great sweets too.

About the Battle of Fort Dearborn August 15, 1812

From roughly 1620 to 1820. the territory of the Potawatomi extended from what is now Green Bay, Wisconsin to Detroit. Michigan and included the Chicago area. In 1803 the United States government built Fort Dearborn at what is today Michigan Avenue and Wacker Drive, as part of a strategic effort to protect lucrative trading in the area from the British. During the War of 1812 between the United States and Great Britain. some Indian tribes allied with the British to stop the westward expansion of the United States and to regain lost Indian lands. On August 15. 1812. more than 50 U.S. soldiers and 41 civilians, including 9 women and 18 children, were ordered to evacuate Fort Dearborn.

This group. almost the entire population of U.S. citizens in the Chicago area. marched south from Fort Dearborn along the shoreline of Lake Michigan until they reached this approximate site, where they were attacked by about 500 Potawatomi. In the battle and aftermath. more than 60 of the evacuees and 15 Native Americans were killed. The dead included Army Captain William Wells, who had come from Fort Wayne with Miami Indians to assist in the evacuation, and Naunongee, Chief of the village of Potawatomi. Ojibwe and Ottawa Indians known as the Three Fires Confederacy. In the 1830s. the Potawatomi of Illinois were forcibly removed to lands west of the Mississippi. Potawatomi Indian Nations continue to thrive in Michigan, Indiana. Wisconsin. Kansas. Oklahoma and Canada and more than 36.000 American Indians from a variety of tribes reside in Chicago today.

Representatives of the Potawatomi Nation.Left to right Bill Buchholtz.Native Flute;representative Butch Starrett.VFW Vet and Native American representative; representative holding Eagle Staff

Tinley Park-Park District Plans Dog Park

The Tinley Park-Park District is planning to develop an off-leash dog park at 84th Avenue and 183rd Street. The Park District is interested in receiving input from residents and has scheduled a public meeting for Tuesday, October 2 at 7 p.m. at the Tinley Park Performing Arts Center located at 16801 S. 80th Ave., at McCarthy Park.

The dog park will be designed with separate areas for small dogs and large dogs. The meeting will inform residents of the current plans and seeks input on what feature residents would like to see in the dog park. The meeting should last about an hour, and all residents are invited to attend. Residents are encouraged to gather friends, neighbors, and dog lovers to attend this important meeting.

If you wish to contact the park district, please call (708) 342-4200.

City of Oak Forest e-Briefs

Join the Senior Commission at its monthly gathering on September 27

Museum Curator Sandi Eileen will present Pantaloons to Bikinis at the Senior Commission's monthly gathering on Thursday, September 27 at 11 a.m. (doors open at 10 a.m.) at the Community Center. Lunch and bingo will follow the presentation. Tickets are available at City Hall for $4.

Military personnel, reservists and veterans to be honored at special celebration

Cook County Commissioner Joan Patricia Murphy, Vitas Innovative Hospice Care, and Miller/Coors Beer, and Dignity Memorial will host America's Salute to Soldiers and Veterans on Tuesday, October 2 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Double Tree Hotel in Alsip. If you wish to be honored at this patriot ceremony, please contact Murphy's office at 708-389-2125 by September 25.

Don't miss the 32nd Annual Community Awareness Fair

The Oak Forest-Crestwood Area Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual Community Awareness Fair on Saturday, October 13 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Oak Forest High School; 151st Street and Central Avenue. While at the fair, donate blood at the Oak Forest Rotary Club's Blood Drive.

Join the Bark for a Park Committee at the 1st Annual Pup Crawl on October 14

Leash up your pooch and head out for some fun at the 1st Annual Pup Crawl on Sunday, October 14 from 1 to 4 p.m. For only $10, you and your family will enjoy activities at every stop. All proceeds will benefit the dog park opening soon in the Forest Preserve District's Bremen Grove.

Answer the call for St. Damian; help the school win $150,000 Returning for its fourth year, U.S. Cellular is giving communities the opportunity to help improve the education of students at 18 schools by challenging them to rally community support for the chance to win a share of $1 million. The school that garners the most community votes will win $150,000 and the next 17 schools with the most votes will receive $50,000. Find out how you can help St. Damian win!

Question of the Week

When is the Oak Forest Fleadh?

We're half way there! The 4th Annual Oak Forest Fleadh will be held on Saturday, March 9, 2013. Please stay tuned for additional information, including parade and 5k registration.

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Chicago Ridge Public Library

The Chicago Ridge Public Library, 10400 S. Oxford, is hosting a "College Planning Workshop" on Thursday, September 27th at 7:00 p.m. Help your college bound student choose the right career track and select the right college. Learn how not to overburden your student with debt and not endanger your financial future. Both parents and college bound students should join us for this valuable workshop. Please join us for this free program.

The Chicago Ridge Public Library, 10400 S. Oxford, is hosting, "Knit Up Some Socks". Do you know how to knit, but want to learn a new skill? Join us for three Monday nights: October 1, 8, and 15th at 7:00 p.m. The class is limited to 8 participants, stop by the library to register, get a supply list, and pre-pay the $5 fee. The instructor will provide the pattern.

The Chicago Ridge Public Library, 10400 S. Oxford, is hosting, "Clutter to Cash" on Thursday, October 4th at 7:00 p.m. An overview of more than two dozen ways to make money decluttering your no-longer wanted items including: electronics, furniture, collectibles and more. Join us for this free program.

Call the library at 708-423-7753 if you have any questions.

Oak Lawn Senior Happenings

Thursday, September 27th is Box Lunch Day which will be sponsored by Franciscan Village located at 1270 Village Drive in Lemont. They and Mother Theresa Home offer a complete continuum of quality health care services and senior living options ranging from independent living apartments and garden homes to assisted living and skilled nursing/long term care. They also offer short term rehab including physical, occupational and speech therapy. The presentation begins at 10:30 a.m. followed by lunch and bingo. Tickets may be purchased at the Senior Center for $4.00. Seating is limited.

The Oak Lawn Senior Center is located at 5330 West 95 Street and can be reached at 708-499-0240.

Palos Park Public Library

Children grades 1st-3rd are invited to attend Reading Buddies Reading Club at the Palos Park Public Library on Wednesday, October 3 at 4:30 pm. The session meets the first Wednesday of each month thru April. Children will read a library book related to the theme of the month, discuss the story, and do a craft related to the theme. A light snack will be served. The theme for October is "Boo, It's Almost Halloween!" The library is located at 12330 Forest Glen Blvd, Palos Park, IL. For more information and to register please call the library at 708-448-1530.

Palos Park Public Library will present a "Hands on Fossil" program for children of all ages on Saturday, September 29 at 11 am. "Walk the earth; see what you will find" in the engaging and educational dinosaur program from T-Rexplorers. The library is located at 12330 Forest Glen Blvd, Palos Park, IL. Call the library to register at 708-448-1530

Worth Park District

Fall Fest

Fall time fun for the entire family: Saturday, October 6th from 12:30-4 pm at Gale Moore Park in Worth.

Building the Canal to Save Chicago

The Chicago River was a public nuisance, polluted and smelly. The building of a canal solved these problems and allowed the city to continue to grow, the mortality rate plummeted and the river became enjoyable. The building of the canal required the creation of a new government and the development of pioneering construction technology that helped in the building of the Panama Canal. The reversal of the flow in the Chicago River remains a wonder of the world and it remains critical to a sustainable future for the Chicago metropolis Listen as Richard Lanyon, former director of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District discusses his recent publication "Building the Canal to Save Chicago". Books will be available for purchase at the event for $22 or $33. Cash, Check or credit card will be accepted. Presented by the author Richard Lanyon on Wed., Sept. 26th at 7pm at Terrace Centre.

For more information, please call the Worth Park District at (708) 448-7080 or visit www.worthparkdistrict.org

Worth Park District is located at 11500 S. Beloit (3 Blocks West of Harlem on 115th Street).

The music of The Carpenters comes to Moraine Valley

Singer Lisa Rock and her six-piece band are bringing "Close to You: The Music of The Carpenters" to the Moraine Valley Community College stage on Saturday, September 29, at 7:30 p.m. The group will perform in the Dorothy Menker Theater, in the Fine and Performing Arts Center, on campus, 9000 W. College Pkwy., Palos Hills. Tickets are $25 for adults and $20 for seniors and students.

Rock has compiled a moving tribute to the music and life of Karen Carpenter, considered one of the best vocalists of all time. Dedicated to re-creating the true sound of The Carpenters, Rock's four octave range allows her to sing the hits like "We've Only Just Begun," "Close to You" and "Rainy Days and Mondays" in their original key, keeping the songs genuine and recognizable.

Rock goes beyond the music in the show. She draws the crowd in with anecdotes about Karen Carpenter, her life and how some of the songs originated. She engages the audience to the point where they can't help but sing along and share the memories of The Carpenters and their music.

Tickets to "Close to You: The Music of The Carpenters" and other upcoming performances can be purchased at morainevalley.edu/fpac, by calling (708) 974-5500, or at the Box Office located on the south end of the Fine and Performing Arts Center.

Chicago Expo at Navy Pier Presents Dialogue in partnership with The School Of The Art Institute of Chicago

(SAIC). EXPO /Dialogues is a year-round program of symposia, panel discussions, and provocative artistic discourse. /Dialogues will culminate in daily programming at EXPO CHICAGO, highlighting the field's leading artists, curators, designers, and arts professionals and the current issues that engage them.

All /Dialogues are open to General Admission ticket holders.

For more information and a complete schedule, EXPOCHICAGO/2012 visit www.expochicago.com

Art Expositions LLC - 372 West Ontario St., Suite 502 Chicago, IL 60654 info@expochicago.com

Live Wire production company presents The Mistakes Madeline Made

This play tells the story of a young woman, Edna, who develops Ahlutophobia, the fear of bathing. Struggling with a soul-crushing job as a personal assistant and an unexpected loss, she wages a furious and funny war against all things complacent, pampered and clean.

As Edna's smell starts to overwhelm her co-workers and many casual lovers, the play raises the questions: is dirty living a political act? And is clean living even possible in these times of unrest?

"Meriwether has such a witty and wily ability to take the seemingly familiar and crack it wide open, and with that leave many aspects of the piece up for interpretation," comments director Krista D'Agostino. "There also seems to be a cultural draw right now towards the experience of 'the girl.' During last year's television season alone, there were numerous shows that debuted featuring young women 'getting by' and many that laid it right out there in the title, including Meriwether's own New Girl, 2 Broke Girls and Lena Dunham's Girls. While on the surface we see Edna as just another unsatisfied and underutilized newly inducted member of the workforce, what's gradually revealed is that underneath the shell of this good-for-nothing-millennial, is a desperate and passionate young woman on the edge of a breakdown, and a breakthrough," adds D'Agostino.

Playwright: Elizabeth Meriwether and Director of LiveWire and Collective member Krista D'Agostino are the stalwarts of this production. Along LiveWire Artistic Director Joel Ewing (Buddy) and LiveWire Associate Artistic Director Chris Zdenek tWilson) with Kristin Collins (Beth), Fred Geyer (Drake/Jake/Blake) and Hilary Williams (Edna), this play is a must.

Greenhouse Theater Center Upstairs Studio is located at 2257 N. Lincoln Ave. in Chicago.

For $10 previews you can come Wednesday, October 3 and Thursday, October 4 at 8 pm. Regular run costs $20 Saturday, October 6 through Saturday, November 3, 2012.

Curtain Times: Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm; Sundays at 3 pm.

Advance tickets are on sale for $10 through October 4 using code "ADVANCE." Tickets are currently available at www.greenhousetheater.com.

Xanadu is not like the movie

by Annette Dixon

Recently I attended the performance of Xanadu at the Drury Lane Theatre in Oak Brook. Just being in Oak Brook at the Drury Lane was a treat. This broadway musical opened Thursday, September 13 with Gina Milo as Clio/Kira and Chris Critelli as Sonny.The production is directed and choreographed by Jeff Award winner Rachel Rockwell, who was named Best Director by Chicago Magazine in 2010.

Xanadu is an amusing comedy on roller skates and every minute is enjoyable. Unlike the movie which is very cult like, I felt as what the audience felt and that was the warmth of the actors and the charisma of their presence.

This musical is a don't miss performance with a Jeff award winner Roberta Duchak as musical director, and Amber Mak as Assistant Director and Choreographer.

Robin Childress (Pit Singer) has a BFA in Musical Theatre from Roosevelt University's Chicago College of Performing Arts.Some of her credits include Marriott Lincolnshire and Drury Water Tower in Chicago.

Jake Klinkhammer (Pit Singer) makes his first appearance with Drury Land Theater. Jake's credits include Chicago Shakespeare Theater and Paramount. Jake received his BFA in musical Theater from Drake University.

Xanadu's music and Lyrics includes unforgettable songs, written by Jeff Lynne and John Farrar, such as Evil Woman, Have You Never Been Mellow, Dancin, All Over the World, Xanadu and more.

Xanadu will continue at Drury Lane Theatre Oakbrook through October 28th with performances as follows:

Wednesday at 1:30 p.m., Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. and 8 p.m., Fridays at 8:30 p.m., Saturdays at 5 and 8:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 and 6 p.m.

Tickets range from $30-$45. This is madness- a show this incredible for a ticket price this affordable and lunch and inner packages are available for as low as $49.75-$68.00, an even better deal. BUT WAIT, there are also discounts for Seniors and students and FREE PARKING.

This is by far one of the best theater values in the area and you can reserve your chance to have this experience by calling the box office at 630-530-0111, or Ticketmaster at 1 800-745-3000 or online at either www.ticketmaster.com or www.drurylaneoakbrook.com

The theater is located in Oakbrook, just to the North of the Oakbrook Shopping Center.

Elizabeth Reiter as Pamina Markus Beam as Papageno

Chicago Opera Theater presents a new Chicago Production of Mozart's The Magic Flute

by Annette Dixon

Chicago Opera Theater is proud to have The Magic Flute as a new Chicago Production after 17 years. They will only have the performances on September 19th, 21st, and 23rd, 2012 at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance in Millennium Park 205 East Randolph in Chicago.

The opera is in English, with English subtitles and the music is conducted by Steuart Bedford and directed by Michael Gieleta. Steuart has worked with all of the world's great opera companies including the English National Opera, the Royal Opera Covent Garden and the Metropolitan Opera.

We were treated for a replacement of Irish soprano, Claudia Boyle. Emily Hindrichs will be in all four performances. Emily stunned the audience and they rewarded her with lengthy applause. According to Ms. Hindrichs bio, it states that she is emerging as one of the most important coloratura sopranos of our time. Her chilling interpretation of the Queen of the Night in Mozart's Die Zauberflote has taken her to debuts with the English National Opera and Opera Frankfurt, Seattle Opera, New Orleans Opera as well as with the Lyric Opera of Chicago where she covered 10 performances earlier this year. She appeared on Windy City Live prior to seeing her on Saturday opening night.

The Magic Flute was chosen by the former General Director Brian Dickie, who left the company June 1st. Chicago Opera Theater's new General Director is Andreas Mitisek which became effective as of September 1, 2012. Even though he is currently Artistic and General Director of Long Beach Opera, he will continue to be with COT for the next five years.

In 2013, the two companies will co-produce The Fall of the House of Usher and the new production of Maria de Buenos Aires which premiered at LBO in January of 2012 will be the same production at Chicago Opera Theater in 2013. Subscriptions are now on sale for the 2013 season, which includes a ticket to all three operas. Oh yes, Verdi's Joan of Arc will close the 2013 season in September.

Chicago Opera Theater continues to offer 50% off subscriptions in most sections to new COT Subscribers. Tickets to individual shows of the 2013 Season will go on sale in January of 2013.

Tickets for Mozart's Magic Flute are available by calling 312-704-8414 or online ChicagoOperaTheater.org.

Just a little side-bar about Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart; he lived only 35 years but composed his symphonies and works starting at age 3. For 35 years his music is alive, the Magic Flute and three operas were written between 1770 and 1775 for performances in both Milan and Bavaria.

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VETERANS NEWS AND NOTES

Image by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, LLP

A permanent place for veterans' groups can be found at the National Museum of the United States Army.

displayed on its donor wall. The Hall will be a space where groups can host official functions.

It will also feature the Registry of the American Soldier, a searchable database of Army veterans.

Learn More

For further information, visit www.armyhistory.org.

National Army Museum

(NAPSA)-America's veterans' organizations can now receive the recognition they deserve in a new and intriguing way.

New Museum

Veterans' organizations, military associations, community groups and membership associations have an opportunity to be forever remembered in the National Museum of the United States Army, planned for Fort Belvoir, Va.

Facts and Functions

According to the Army Historical Foundation, groups that sponsor the museum's Veterans' Hall will have their organizations' names permanently

Great Louisiana Seafood

(NAPSA)-Many people are looking for simple, nutritious and easy-to-prepare recipes-and seafood can be a fresh alternative to meat and poultry.

Fortunately, preparing a tasty seafood meal is easier than you might imagine-if you have a little inspiration and fresh, premium quality ingredients from the Gulf.

Chef Keith Frentz of LOLA Restaurant, winner of the 5th annual Louisiana Seafood Cook-Off and culinary ambassador for the Louisiana Seafood Promotion & Marketing Board (LSPMB), used such ingredients to create his winning dish.

"It was important for me to use products from the local farmers market and wild-caught Louisiana catfish because you don't see them very often on menus," said Frentz, who was crowned King of Louisiana Seafood.

Chef Frentz offers another of his delicious recipes for Blackened Catfish Sandwich which may give you the confidence you need to make seafood a regular part of your home cooking repertoire.

Blackened Catfish Sandwich

Yield: 4 servings

1 cup paprika
2 Tbsp. black pepper
2 Tbsp. white pepper
3 Tbsp. cayenne pepper
1 tsp. sugar
1/4 tsp. kosher salt
1/2 Tbsp. granulated garlic
1/2 Tbsp. granulated onion
1/4 cup mayonnaise
1/4 cup Dijon mustard
8 slices French bread
4 2-oz. pieces wild Louisiana catfish
2 beefsteak tomatoes, sliced
5 oz. spring salad mix
Sliced pickles

Combine spices; set aside. Combine mayonnaise and mustard; set aside.

Toast bread until crisp. Coat nonstick skillet with olive oil. Preheat over medium-high heat. Generously rub fish pieces with seasoning mix. Place in skillet and cook 3-4 minutes per side until cooked through.

Spread bread with mayonnaise mixture. Place fish on half of the bread slices. Top with tomato, salad mix and pickles. Place remaining bread on top of each portion to complete sandwich. Press lightly and serve immediately.

For more information and Louisiana seafood recipes, visit LSPMB's website at louisianaseafood.com.

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Placing young people in paid internships can improve diversity and prosperity-nearly three-quarters of one group's graduates got job offers from the companies where they interned.

Students Start Careers

(NAPSA)-Many internships may be difficult to get but they're an increasingly effective route to a good job.

Here's why: On average, 62 percent of college graduates who had paid internships were offered full-time jobs. Fully three-quarters of the students who got internships through one organization, however, received job offers.

The nation's largest nonprofit resource for salaried corporate internships helps prepare highly qualified college students for corporate and community leadership.

So far, INROADS has placed students in over 125,000 paid internships and graduated over 25,000 into full-time professional and managerial positions, with over 1,000 corporate partners, many in the Fortune 500. In fact, INROADS graduates had a conversion rate of 65 percent from internship to full-time employment with an INROADS Corporate Partner, while the national average graduate conversion rate is only 57.7 percent.

To learn more or to support, visit www.INROADS.org and www.INROADS.org/collegelinks or text a donation to 2343.

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Lake Koshkanong is the 3rd largest lake in Wisconsin and is visible from the lot and lake accessible. Call for more information!
312-624-8996

A Key Step Is Required For Many Jobs

(NAPSA)-The Supreme Court recently reaffirmed that those men who fail to register with the Selective Service System can legally be denied a federal job. In addition, many states and municipalities now link their jobs to Selective Service registration. Even some government contractors are now requiring proof of registration for employment.

What To Do

Taking a few minutes to register, young men, 18-25 years old, can maintain their eligibility for these jobs throughout their careers, and at the same time remain eligible for a number of federal job-training programs, such as those that are tied to the Workforce Investment Act. Registration also means being eligible for government-funded student financial aid, including Federal Pell Grants, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, National Direct Student Loans, and College Work Study.

Virtually all young men living in the United States-regardless of their citizenship status-must register with the Selective Service System within 30 days of their 18th birthday. Immigrant men on valid visas are not required to register.

Registration

Registration is easily done at any U.S. Post Office, by U.S. mail or online.

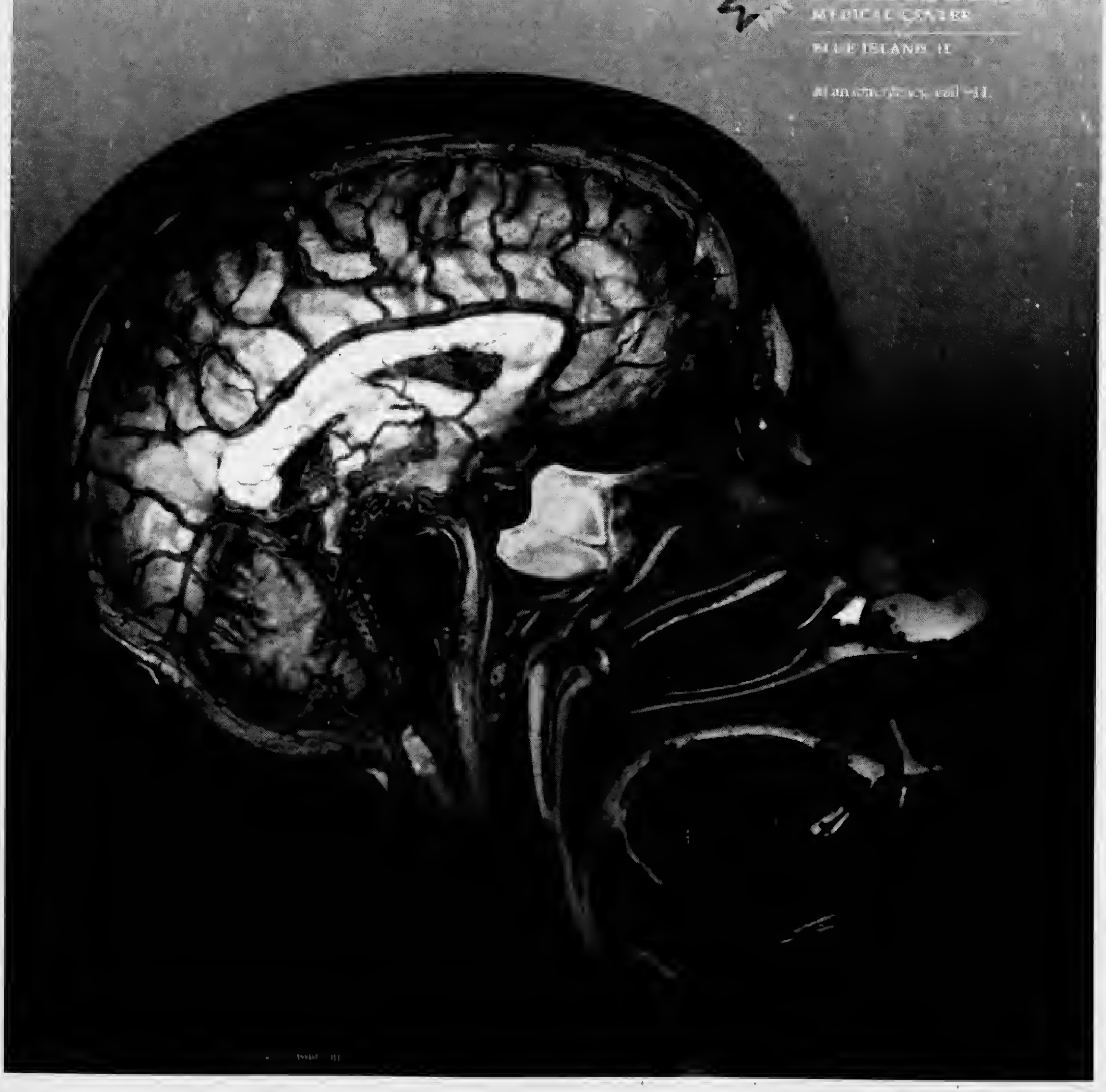
For more information about registration, visit www.sss.gov.

Speed.

MetroSouth is a Primary Stroke Center.

We are certified by The Joint Commission as a Primary Stroke Center. That's important, because we have demonstrated expertise in the early assessment, rapid diagnosis and treatment of stroke emergencies.* Our stroke alert team collaborates with local EMS to provide patients with quick access to our advanced diagnostic and treatment technology. **To learn more, visit MetroSouthMedicalCenter.com/Stroke.**

MetroSouth
MEDICAL CENTER
BLUE ISLAND, IL



Village View

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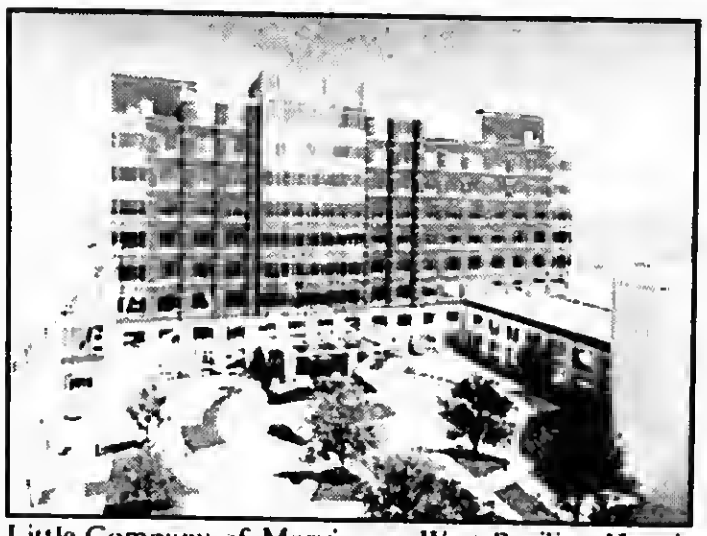
SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 39 | Number 7 | October 2, 2012

Burbank, Evergreen Park, Hickory Hills, Justice, Oak Lawn



Little Company of Mary's new West Pavilion Hospital.

Little Company of Mary's Big Debut of the new West Pavilion Hospital

Join Us for the Community Open House on Sunday, October 14th!

We are excited to invite you to the Community Open House for a sneak peek of our new West Pavilion patient tower. You will have the chance to be among the first to see the new Women's Center for Life and Health and our nationally accredited Breast Health Center and Family Birth Center.

With the area's first Women's Center. The Comprehensive Women's Center for Life and Health, will offer specialty services in beautiful surroundings, geared towards a holistic approach in women's health in one convenient location. The Women's Center will provide women's health care needs ranging from routine wellness exams and screenings, patient education to advanced diagnostic facilities for even the most critical health conditions.

Aiming to the meet the community's needs. The Women's Center will include:

The Family Birth Center to support family-centered maternity care

State-of-the-art Diagnostic imaging

The Nationally Accredited Comprehensive Breast Health Center

"The new West Pavilion will provide care for our patients with the most up-to-date technologies in an environment designed to promote healing," said Dennis Reilly, LCM president and CEO. The West Pavilion offers state-of-the-art women's healthcare at the Women's Center for Life and Health. And the brand new Family Birthing Center will be the perfect place to welcome new little ones into the world. It also offers 123 private patient rooms, all with private baths and day beds for visitors.

The West Pavilion also offers a calming rooftop garden, full-service kitchen and a spacious dining area. We look forward to sharing the beautiful new facility with you!

Once you've signed up for the event at lemopenhouse.org, you will receive a confirmation email with a ticket. Please print the ticket and bring it with to your selected time session. If you require a wheelchair, please bring someone with you for assistance.

Join us for the West Pavilion Grand Opening: Free tours, giveaways, and more! Sunday, October 14, 11:00 am. to 5:00 pm at the new West Pavilion at Little Company of Mary Hospital, 2800 W. 95th St. in Evergreen Park, Illinois. To RSVP register online to reserve your tour. You will have the chance to pick a time to tour the facility.

On the day of the event, please park in the Hospital's West parking lot. Registration will take place in the tent.

Safe Speed Cameras Focus on Justice Police Chief

by Jan Glaz

On September 24th at the Village of Justice President and Board of Trustee Meeting an issue regarding Police Chief Robert Gedville and the village of Justice SafeSpeed cameras sparked a discussion during the public portion of the meeting. It was reported that Gedville distributed solicitations via email to government officials of more than 50 municipalities recommending the use of SafeSpeed. Gedville was instrumental in SafeSpeed winning the contract with the Village of Justice when the city was seeking to install two red-light cameras.

The village attorney at the time Justice contracted SafeSpeed stemmed from the firm known as the Del Galdo Law Group, whose founder Michael Del Galdo is a friend of Zollar: owner of the SafeSpeed Company. Michael Del Galdo denied that he or anyone from his firm promoted SafeSpeed; however, Justice hired a new attorney. President Kris Wasowicz said that SafeSpeed was awarded the contract after reviewing several other companies. The matter of solicitations involving the Police Chief is currently under investigation.The two Justice SafeSpeed Cameras began issuing tickets September 1st. Violators are fined $100.00 and $60.00 belongs to the village, $40.00 to SafeSpeed.

Board Approvals: Before adjournment the board agreed to hire Assurance Insurance Agency as Broker of Record for renewal of all non-medical insurance lines for the Village: the board directed village clerk Kathy Svoboda to prepare and send invitations to the next committee meeting, to be held on October 3rd, to liquor license holders and to representatives of the Chamber of Commerce to discuss the option of increasing the closing hour for liquor serving establishments to 3:00 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday mornings (Friday and Saturday nights).

Hickory Hills Awarded $80,000 Grant

by Jan Glaz

At the Hickory Hills City Council Meeting on September 27th City Attorney Joseph Cainkar announced that a Community Development Block Grant totaling $80,000 was awarded to the city of Hickory Hills. The grant will be utilized to replace sanitary sewers along 95th Street and 88th Avenue, the sewer project is scheduled for 2013. Following the announcement, Police Chief Alan Vodicka presented Certificates of Appreciation and Merit Awards for both 'human and canine' Police Officers.

Human Officers: Detective Adam Gulczynski was presented with a Certificate of Commendation for his efforts in developing intelligence information which proved to be critical in identifying, locating and apprehending, the individuals responsible for over twenty residential burglaries. Police Sgt. Ervin Wee Sit was presented with a 20 yr. Service Award Pin. Officer Wee Sit is currently responsible for the firearms training for the entire police department; he is also the assistant commander of the 5th District

Swat Team comprised of 11 suburban municipalities and a recipient of the Cook County Sheriff's Law

Enforcement of Merit.

Canine Officers: Officer Mark Benaitis, handler of the first Canine Officer trained in April of 2003, a

German shepherd named "Oscar", stepped forward to accept a Certificate of Appreciation from the

Police Department. Officer Oscar who passed away in 2006 was memorialized for contributing to the safety and security of the citizens of Hickory Hills. Handler, Officer James Compton, accepted an Appreciation Certificate for "Orry", who served the city from April 2007 through August 2012. Canine Officer Orry can no longer perform his duties due to arthritis in his rear legs. Both Appreciation Certificates, along with photos of "Orry" and "Oscar", will be on display at the Hickory Hills Police Department.

Mayor James Sexton recuperating from West Nile Virus

by Matt Mayer

President pro tem Jerry Bosch announced at the brief Sept. 17 Evergreen Park Board of Trustees meeting that Mayor James Sexton returned home from the hospital on Sept. 14 after being hospitalized for over a month from the West Nile Virus. He is continuing to recover, said Bosh

Village Clerk Kathy Apparo said she had visited him at his home where she said he's been resting and looks great. "He's up and moving around, and getting back to his old self. He is anxious to get back to work, however he doesn't know when that will be. He is undergoing outpatient physical therapy during the week and is expected to make a full recovery", said Apparo.

During the business portion of the meeting: Officials approved an annual membership dues request for the National League of Cities for fiscal year 2013 as well as a request from Queen of Martyrs School to hold their homecoming parade on Saturday Oct. 6 from 10:30 to 12:00 p.m. The month of October was proclaimed "Arts and Humanities Month" in the village.

Village View

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FAR SOUTH EDITION

Volume 10 | Number 19 | October 2, 2012

Oak Forest, Orland Park, Tinley Park

After 40 Years in Oak Forest High Taxes Drive Out Papa's Pizza

by Jan Glaz

The Oak Forest City Council on September 25th approved an Ordinance Amending the Municipal Code to decrease the number of liquor licenses due to the closure of Papa's Pizza, 16040 South Cicero Avenue. Owner Sam Tuhaimer was quoted as saying, "High taxes are hurting businesses in Oak Forest big, hig time." Besides high taxes. Tuhaimer admitted that the restaurant was not producing enough business. The building at 16040 Cicero Avenue will reopen as Dreams Pizzeria under new ownership. The Board of Trustees amended the Municipal Code to increase the number of liquor licenses to allow the sale of liquor by Dreams Pizzeria. Tuhaimer plans to stay in contact with his customer base and update them as to where and when he will reopen Papa's Pizza, Tinley Park is an option.

Troy Ishler. City Administrator, provided details regarding an approved bid in the amount of $69.608.00 from Davis Concrete Construction, 11633 S. Mayfield, in Alsip. for the construction of sidewalk on 151st Street. near Hille Middle School. Incidents of children being struck by cars as they crossed 151st Street prompted the installation of a new stop light with connecting sidewalks. Ishler reported the bid came in under budget, as engineers had proposed an estimate of $72.000 to complete the project.

End Note: A swearing in ceremony welcomed two new City of Oak Forest Police Officers. Adrian O'Donnell and Craig Zelhart. The appointment of Nicholas Valadez as Temporary Administrative Hearing Officer met with board approval.

Orland Park is Host to the Largest Garage Sale in the Region

by Jan Glaz

A press release distributed at the Village of Orland Park Board of Trustees Meeting held on September 17th announced that the Village of Orland Park Recreation Department's Special Recreation Program will host its fall garage sale on Saturday. November 3. 2012 at the Orland Park Civic Center, 14750 South Ravinia Avenue from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Sellers rent tables and keep the profits! "Our indoor garage sale is one of the largest in the region." said Orland Park Special Recreation Supervisor Kathleen Hellwig. Banquet sized tables are available for rent for $25.00 per table. Rental reservations must be made before October 19, 2012 at the Recreation Administration Building. 14600 South Ravinia Avenue or at the village's Sportsplex. 11351 West 159th Street. The sale is limited to 89 vendors and hundreds of shoppers attend the sale each year. The public can enjoy concessions and find some great buys. Sellers can contact Barb Rhodes at 708/ 403-6202 with questions or call the Village of Orland Park Recreation Department at 708/403-7275.

New Businesses in Town: Bonefish Grill. a chain with locations in Skokie. Algonquin. and Schaumburg. Illinois. submitted plans to construct a new 5.200 square foot seafood restaurant at 15537 LaGrange Road and are hoping for city council plan approval at the October 1st Board of Trustees Meeting. The Bonefish chain is owned by Bloomin' Brands based in Tampa. Florida. Other familiar chains operated by Bloomin' Brands include the Carrabba's Italian Grill, and the Outback Steakhouse. Whole Foods is scheduled to open November 2nd at 15260 South LaGrange Road. the area formerly occupied by Borders Book Store. at 153rd Street.

A motion to pay an invoice wed to the Taste of Orland Park met with approval before the motion to adjourn. The Village has a three year contract with Hertz Equipment Rental to provide electricity for the Taste of Orland Park. This is year two of the three year contract. In the past, the village has borrowed light towers from ESDA and the Police. Department. These towers were no longer available and had to be replaced with rentals from Hertz. which was not included in the original contract. The contract with Hertz Equipment Rental is for an amount not to exceed $8.313.75. With the additional three light towers rented. there is an additional charge of $1,792.60. bringing the approved total amount due to $10.106.35.

Tinley Park Public Library

Sumptuous Soups with Chef Dave Esau

The Tinley Park Public Library will host Create Spooky Halloween Treats on Wednesday. October 3. 2012 at 7 pm. Dynamic chef Dave Esau will prepare tasty soups including black bean. harvest tomato with fresh basil and orzo. and acorn squash with maple and sage. Tastings and recipes included. Register in person. online or hy phone.

Antiques Road Show at the Tinley Park Historical Society

We're taking the show on the road on Saturday. October 6. 2012 at 11am and at 2 pm. Join us at the Tinley Park Historical Society where antique appraiser Rex Newell will review the hottest items in demand for dealers and appraise one item per person. Although appraisals will be limited to the first 60 people, all are welcome to watch the shows. Partnership with the library and Tinley Park Historical Society at 6727 West 174th St. in downtown Tinley Park. No registration required. Numbers given at 10 am and 1 pm for the shows.

Simply Delicious Holiday Meals with Seasonal Produce

The Tinley Park Public Library will host Simply Delicious Holiday Meals with Seasonal Produce on Monday. October 15. 2012 at 7 pm. Chef Bret Beall will demonstrate how to take locally-grown and seasonally available fruit and veggies and turn them into delicious meals for the holidays. You will learn how to prepare. season. and preserve produce for use throughout the year. Register in person, online or by phone.

The Tinley Park Public Library is located at 7851 Timber Drive. Phone 708.532.0160. Ext 3. Our website is www.tplibrary.org.

Friends rally to support Orland Park resident Lisa Johnston

Benefit bash slated for Friday. Oct. 12, at 115 Bourbon Street

Tickets are $30 per person and $35 at the door to join the legions of .friends and family members who are producing "Benefit for Lisa" from 7 p.m. until midnight on Friday. Oct. 12. at 115 Bourbon Street. 33359 West 115th Street. Merrionette Park. Ill.

The evening features entertainment by Keith Christopher Entertainment Group led by DJ Keith "K.C." KoKoruz. who has been named among the nation's top 10 DJs in competitions across the country for several years. The ticket price also includes a generous buffet of delicious food. beer. wine and soft drinks. as well as homemade desserts. There also will be a silent auction and offer raffle tickets for prizes provided by area merchants. restaurateurs and professional service companies. To purchase tickets in advance, visit www. benefitforlisa.org or ask benefit committee members. To find a committee member you know. visit http:// www.benefitforlisa.org/#!committee.

Orland Park resident Lisa Johnston. who will benefit from this fundraiser. was most recently diagnosed with cancer of the fallopian tubes, a very rare occurrence found among less than 2 percent of women with gynecological cancer in the United States. This diagnosis is only the most recent chapter is her life's story of healthcare challenges including nine brain surgeries from 1991 through 2004 and overcoming two major blood clots in 1997.

"Lisa is a fighter. and we've joined her fight," says her sister Betty Jo Maldonado. "Plus we, view this event as an opportunity for many people whom Lisa helped as a volunteer when she was healthy to say 'thank you.'"

Johnston exceeded her maximum coverage allowed by CIIIPS. a plan by the State of Illinois for people who are rejected by traditional insurance companies. close to her 50th birthday this past July.

"Lisa's medical costs continue to skyrocket. That's why our group of family and friends decided to start a registered not-for-profit organization to help Lisa pay for some of her healthcare and other living costs." says Maldonado. "This October benefit. which Lisa plans to attend. is one of many fundraising initiatives our group has developed to support Lisa."

For individuals and group who want to get more involved by contributing to the costs of this October benefit event or to make a donation to this grassroots not-for- profit initiative. please contact Bette Jo Maldonado at 708-557-1966.

Archer Bank. 3435 West 111th Street. Chicago 60655 accepts raffle and silent auction items for the October benefit as well as financial contributions that will be deposited directly into the account for Lisa Johnston.

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SOUTH SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 13 | Number 19 | October 2, 2012

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

Palos Heights approved the creation of a Public Arts Commission

by Matt Mayer

The brief Oct. 2 Palos Heights City Council meeting commenced with the approval for city attorney Tom Brown to draft an ordinance to create a Public Arts Commission. A request to enter into an agreement for the regulation of parking and enforcement of traffic regulations on private roads in the city was approved as well as a request for the attorney to draft an ordinance amending Chapter 76. (Traffic Schedules). hy adding the Ponds of Palos to Schedule VII which would allow the enforcing of traffic regulations on private roads. A request to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the 5th District S.W.AT. Team suhject to the review of the attorney was also approved.

Other highlights: An ordinance for an amendment to the final planned unit development for Manor Care West Suhdivision at 11860 Southwest Highway, for additional parking was approved as well as a request for the Director of Public Works to hire Hamster Roofing to replace the cluhhouse roof at Lake Catherine for $10,662.00. A request for procedures regarding special events permit applications and a request to authorize the mayor to execute the water system emergency connection agreement hetween the City of Palos heights and the Village of Palos Park were also approved.

The Chicago Ridge Public Library

The Chicago Ridge Public Library now subscribes to Career Cruising, an easy-to-use career planning resource. Join us on Thursday, October 18th at 6:30 p.m. to learn how to use this Internet hased resource. Career Cruising includes career information, aptitude quizzes, joh postings and a resume huilder tool. This is a free program.

"Strip & Slash: Quilt Class" on Saturday, October 13th, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Bring your strips-darks, mediums, and lights. You will create a watercolor-like quilt that is made without triangles. Bring a sack lunch! Stop hy the lihrary to register, pre-pay the $35 fee, and pick up a supply list. Minimum 12 participants.

Call the lihrary at 708-423-7753 with any questions.

The lihrary is located at 10400 S. Oxford.

Christmas Care program

Worth Township Youth Commission is again sponsoring its "Christmas Care" program for families experiencing financial difficulties. Through the generous donations of township residents, Worth Township has helped hundreds of families. New toys and "gently used" coats will he accepted hy the Youth Commission at its office, 11601 South Pulaski, Alsip , IL , hegining October 1st through December 21, 2012. This program gives an opportunity for churches, schools, businesses, civic groups and private families to work together to help those in need in their own community.

Please call our office, 708-371-2900, ext. 45, if there is any question.

Palos Hills approves the sale of personal property

hy Matt Mayer

In a telephone conversation with Mayor Gerald Bennett regarding the Sept. 6 Palos Hills City Council meeting, an ordinance authorizing the disposal by public auction for the sale of personal property owned by the eity as well as the assignment of number 2012-13 to the ordinance was approved Aldermen Kleefisch announced that there is a public hearing on Oct 2, 2012 for Lance Piotrowski to allow a twenty- percent side yard variance of for the construction of a new house.

Other highlights: Alderman Kleefisch also read the police department activity report for the month of August as follows: 159 traffic tickets were issued, 211 parking tickets, there were 29 misdemeanor complaints and 4 felony complaints, 2 burglaries, 5 thefts, and the criminal investigation division handled 74 cases.

Bennett read a letter from Representative Kelly Burke (36-D), which was addressed to Police Chief Paul Madigan thanking him for his efforts in resolving a recent string of hurglaries in Palos Hills and Hickory Hills. In the letter Burke states that she is sure that the residents of the areas feel more secure knowing that these criminals have been apprehended. She also extended her gratitude to all of Chief Madigan's police officers.

Assessor Toscas Announces Appeal Assistance for Worth Township Homeowners

Worth Township Assessor John Z. Toscas announced that the Cook County Board of Review will be open on Octoher 15, 2012 for filing Appeals of the 2012 Real Estate Assessment for all homeowners in Worth Township.

The Board of Review filing dates are Octoher 15, 2012 through Novemher 14, 2012. Assessor Toscas' staff will assist all Worth Township homeowners with filing a 2012 Real Estate Assessed Valuation Complaint and research comparable properties through November 9, 2012.

All Worth Township homeowners are encouraged to come to Assessor Toscas' office at 11601 S Pulaski, Alsip, and the staff will assist in the preparation and filing of the complaint to try to reduce the assessment. Homeowners just need to bring in their Property Identification Number (PIN). The deadline for filing the complaint in Assessor Toscas' office is Friday, November 9th, 2012 by 4:30 p.m.

Palos Park Publc Library

The Book & Film Series returns to the Palos Park Public Library on Wednesday, Oct. 10 at 2 p.m, with The Woman in Black, a ghost story based on the novel by Susan Hill and stars Daniel Radcliffe. Run time 95 minutes.

This program is free and open to the public. All who attend will be entered in a raffle to win a free copy of the book. Didn't read the book? Come out anyway! Join us to judge a book by its movie. The library is located at 12330 Forest Glen Boulevard. Call the library to register at (708) 448-1530, or for more information, visit the library online at www.palosparklibrary.org.

First Midwest Bank's Financial Consultant Alex Guerrero will visit the Palos Park Public Library on Thursday, Oct. 11 at 9:30 a.m. to discuss what the 2012 elections will hold for investors. Coffee and doughnuts will be served. Call the library to register at 708-448-1530 or visit the library online at www.palosparklibrary.org.

The library is located at 12330 Forest Glen Blvd. in Palos Park.

MWRD Rain Barrel Free Delivery

Commissioner Debra Shore next to a rain barrel painted by local artist Lynda Roddy.

Commissioner Dehra Shore of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) stated that "installing a rain barrel is one of the easiest ways to save money on your water bill while conserving water and preventing storm sewers from filling up". "It is a win-win scenario for everyone".

The cost of rain barrels from the MWRD now includes free home delivery. The 55 gallon containers are available for $58 plus tax for Cook County residents. MWRD rain barrels are sold in four basic colors, blue, black, terra cotta and grey. The rain barrel program is part of MWRD's mission to promote water conservation and environmental responsibility, and the addition of home delivery makes it easier for residents to participate.

With nearly three months remaining before it's too cold to store rain water outside, it is not too late to benefit from a rain barrel of your own. Capture and store water for your yard and garden, reduce your water consumption, save money and help the MWRD protect our environment.

Commissioner Shore concluded by saying "rain barrels may he purchased at mwrd.org".

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B-MAC EDITION

Volume 6 | Number 19 | October 2, 2012

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Crestwood Mayor Urges Americans to Study the Constitution

by Jan Glaz

September 20th at the Crestwood Board of Trustees Meeting. Trustee James Fowler, sworn in as Mayor pro tem. read a proclamation from Mayor Stranczek proclaiming the week of September 17 through 23 as Constitution Week. Public Law 915 guarantees the issuing of a proclamation each year by the President of the United States of America designating one week to study, and then reflect, on the Constitution and the privilege of being an American with all the rights and responsibilities which that privilege involves. 2012 is the two hundred twenty-fifth anniversary of the signing of the Constitution of the United States of America. Mayor Stranczek urged all citizens to commemorate the anniversary with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Other Business: There were no objections made by the board of trustees to consider directing the Village Attorney to prepare a Special Use Ordinance to permit an automotive accessories, sales and service company, for Advanced Dealer Services to be located at 4708-4710 West 137th Street in Crestwood, Illinois. New appointments within Crestwood, met with approval: Mike Brady as Part-Time Fitness Attendant at the rate of $9.75/per hour; David Ziolkowski as Part-Time Building Attendant at the rate. of $10.25/per hour; Erik Ziolkowski as Part-Time Building Attendant at the rate of $9.25/per hour; with their term ending April 30, 2013.

Alsip Mayor Vetos Ordinance to Reduce Pay

by Jan Glaz

Mayor Kitching called the September 17th Village of Alsip Board Meeting to order and proceeded to veto an Ordinance Establishing Compensation and Rate of Pay for Elected Officials, passed by the Board of Trustees on September 4th. "I appeal this ordinance because if it were to become law it would change the village's form of government by lowering the village president's salary for the 2013-17 term of office as well as that of the village clerk and village trustees. This ordinance is part of a larger plan to change the village's form of government after the next municipal election. The trustees who voted to adopt this ordinance plan to have a Village Manager run the day to day operations of the village rather than the village president... it also leads to more village funds being expended to hire a Village Manager and possible staff." said the Mayor. Kitching further explained that he vetoed the ordinance not just for himself but for future village presidents: "The next duly elected village president of Alsip, whoever that may be, should not have the current trustees dictate the terms of his or her office before he or she takes office."

Property Donations: The Mayor announced that he will introduce an ordinance at the next regularly scheduled board of trustees meeting to accept donated properties. Along that line, he's working with MB Financial to take possession of Mullberry Ridge located behind the village hall, an acquisition of roughly a half million dollars' worth of land. The lots are improved with underground utilities, electricity, water and the road is in place. The Mullberry Ridge property, donated by MB Financial, is the largest of three properties donated at no cost to the village since Mayor Kitching took office. The first piece was eight and a half acres along the tollway and the second piece was the Veterans Plaza. Regarding the 'Land Bank Project' which he initiated when he took office the Mayor said. "It's a wonderful thing."

New Squad Cars: The purchase of (4) new squad cars met with city council approval before adjournment. The accepted bid is from Terry's Lincoln Mercury, in the amount of $22,986.00 each.

Blue Cap Auction

Blue Cap's 24th Annual Auction will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel Chicago-Alsip on Friday, November 2nd at 6:30 p.m. Please join us for an evening of delicious food, live and silent auctions, raffles, split-the-pots, and much more.

Tickets are $100 per person or $175 per couple. Please contact Jill Hart in Blue Cap's Development Office at (708) 389-8137 Ext. 108 if you would like to attend, make a donation or simply need more information.

Auction 2012 Sponsors Gold Level Sponsor Tri-State Disposal Inc.

"Harvest Sponsors: A Generous Friend, Metro Recycling,

Riordan & Scully Insurance Services"

"Live Auction Sponsors: First Midwest Bank and Great Lakes Bank"

"Cocktail Sponsor: Independence Capital Financial Partners"

"Registration Sponsors: Mrs. Stephanie Dempster and Aileen S. Andrew Foundation"

Midlothian Pays Tribute to Heroic Citizens

by Jan Glaz

The September 26th Village of Midlothian Board Meeting began with a recognition ceremony to honor the efforts of three citizens. Richard W. DeJong came to the aid of injured Police Officer Bruce Alton after the officer's motorcycle careened out of control and propelled him over the handlebars. Alton hit the pavement injured and unconscious. The officer's experience was life threatening and DeJong's rescue lifesaving. Two sisters; Emmalina Makowan, aged seven, and Isabella Ryczgwot, aged ten, also received recognition for their prompt response in dialing 911 and assisting in emergency aid for their mother who fell into a diabetic coma. Mayor Stephens, the Trustees, and all those in attendance, praised the efforts of Midlothian's courageous citizens with smiles of approval and a robust round of applause.

Prior to agreeing to pursue and negotiate an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Harvey for usage of their Outdoor Shooting Range by the Midlothian Police Department, Mayor Terry Stephens explained that it is an 'exchange agreement' in as much as Harvey will use Midlothian's indoor shooting range and Midlothian will use Harvey's outdoor range, as opposed to sending officers to a range in Lemont Illinois to practice. "And it's free." said Stephens. In invoice to pay Loung's Corp's in the amount of $23,964.30 for renovation of the Village Hall, which has been accepted by Architecture, Ltd, also met with approval.

An item of note before the meeting adjourned: All new merchandise will be available at an Auction at St. Stephen Lutheran Church, 14700 Kildare Avenue. Seasonal items: office equipment; paper goods; candy; a bake sale; refreshments and much more! Doors open at 5:00 p.m.

Election Advertising in our October 16th issue! Call 708-425-1910 for details.

Pictured left to right: Bonnie Blake (CEI), Sister Mary Ventura, Arlene Baumann, SBCA Principal

Exemplary Lab Award Presented to St. Bernadette Catholic Academy

St. Bernadette Catholic Academy was presented with the Exemplary Lab Award by CEI in Waco, Texas. This award is given to schools whose students show excellent progress in the ELS program for struggling students. Sister Mary Ventura directs the program and has applied for the Award ten times and has received the award each time she has applied. Congratulations to Sister Mary and her students!

Smith CCRCs plan free memory support meetings in October for caregivers and families of people with dementia

Southland families and caregivers of seniors living with Alzheimer's disease or dementia can get together with others who share their concerns at a free gathering either Thursday, Oct. 4 at Smith Crossing in Orland Park or Tuesday, Oct. 9 at Smith Village in Chicago's Beverly neighhorhood. Both begin at 6:30 p.m.

The hour-long gatherings at the two continuing care retirement communities will he open to questions and comments from the assembled group, and light refreshments will be served.

On Oct. 4 Smith Crossing will screen a short film titled, "The Alzheimer's Project—Caregivers," which follows a few caregivers in varying scenarios and captures the obstacles that each have to face daily. This meeting at 10501 Emilie Lane in Orland Park (enter at 104th Avenue and 183rd Street), requires advanced reservations. Call 708-326-2300.

Oct. 9 Diane Morgan, the memory support coordinator of Smith Village at 2320 W. 113th Place in Chicago, will lead a 60-minute Q&A session that touches on keeping loved ones actively engaged, "sundowning" and what to do about it and what's the progression of dementia. To reserve a seat, please call 773-474-7300.

Coat Drive

Worth Township is accepting "gently used" coats for its Christmas Care Program. These coats are available to families in need. Families can come to Worth Township , 11601 S. Pulaski, Alsip , and pick up coats. Coats are accepted from residents, schools, and different agencies and can he donated hetween Octoher 1st and December 31st.

Coats are available on the 2nd Floor. For questions, call the Worth Township Youth Commission at: 708-371-2900 x 45.

Oak Lawn approved Christ Hospital expansion

by Matt Mayer

Officials at a recent Oak Lawn Board of Trustees meeting unanimously approved a request from Advocate Christ Medical Hospital (ACMC) for phase two of a $600 million expansion project. However Trustee Tom Duhig (D-4) said as he has in the past that he continues to have reservations regarding the expansion. A traffic study near the hospital at 4440 W. 95th Street has not been performed and a financial impact study of the area near the hospital is not completed. "We asked for a financial impact study and we received a physical impact study - regarding sewers etc - hut the financial study regarding the impact the hospital will have on area business is not completed. It is a work in progress", said Duhig.

"There has heen no traffic study performed on the south side of 95th Street and that needs to be done", Duhig reiterated. "We can all guess where the traffic flow will be but we need to do more traffic studies. We need to know if one way signs, do not enter, or speed humps are needed", said Duhig.

I want to create a plan where after a two-year period ACMC would be responsible for funding traffic devices or traffic improvements in the area. My primary concerns are how the expansion may affect residents. "Everyone on this board wants to see this become the largest and most successful hospital in Illinois, however I don't want to see local residents that abut the hospital not get a fair shake", said Duhig.

Officials have approved the necessary ordinances for Phase II of the expansion. They include a nine story patient tower, an expanded emergency room a heart, neurosciences and vascular institute, 14 operating rooms and two parking garages. An easement across Kostner Avenue, north of 95th Street with the intent of making pedestrian crossings safer. The Illinois Health Facilities Review Board is expected to approve the patient tower project at their October meeting.

The steel structure for an outpatient pavilion has been completed and work has begun on the 303,334 square foot pavilion at a cost of $202 million. A six level parking garage now being constructed across Kilbourn Avenue will be connected to the pavilion via a pedestrian bridge.

Medicare Open Enrollment Seminar

Turning 65?

Unhappy with your current insurance or drug plan?

SHIP (Senior Health Insurance Program) counselors will be sponsoring an Open Enrollment Seminar for Medicare Part A, Part B and Part D on Wednesday, October 10, 2012 at 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. It will be held at Palos Township, 10802 S. Roberts Road, Palos Hills, Illinois.

Counselors will be on hand to discuss Parts A, B and Part D prescription drug coverage. Time will be allocated for questions and answers. The seminar coincides with the Open Enrollment Period for coverage changes which hegins on October 15, 2012.

ALSO, don't be fooled! Learn to stop Medicare ahuse and fraud.

For additional information please contact Palos Township at 708-598-4418.

Senior Update

From the Desk of Robert E. Maloney, Palos Township Assessor

Senior renewal forms will be out early this year. If you had a senior exemption this year, you should get the renewal form in the mail, for next year, in December, 2012.

Senior Citizen Exemption

To qualify for the Senior Citizen Exemption and receive up to $4,000 in equalized assessed value (EAV) savings for the 2012 tax year, the property owner must meet the following requirements:

Be born prior to or in the year 1947

Own the property during 2012 (if a property owner takes residence after January 1, he or she may receive a prorated exemption based on the month the property was purchased) and

Use the property as the principal place of residence:

Seniors qualifying for this exemption will automatically receive the Homeowner Exemption. Also, as of 2011, you have to renew the senior exemption every year.

Documentation Needed:

If a taxpayer is applying for this exemption for the first time he or she must provide a copy of a recent property tax bill and a copy of one of the following forms of proof of age and residency with this application: an Illinois Driver's Licensetboth sides) or an Illinois Identification Card.

Senior Citizen Assessment Freeze Exemption

To qualify for the Senior Citizen Assessment Freeze Exemption for the tax year 2012, the property owner must meet the following requirements:

Be born prior to or in the year 1947,

Have a total household income of $55,000 or less for income tax year 2011,

Have owned the property or had a legal, equitable or leasehold interest in the property on January 1, 2011 and January 1, 2012

Have used the property as a principal place of residence as of January 1, 2011 and

January 1, 2012, and

Have been liable for the payment of 2011 and 2012 property taxes.

Documentation Needed:

If a taxpayer is applying for this exemption for the first time, he or she must provide a copy of a recent property tax bill and a copy of one of the following forms of proof of age and residency with this application: an Illinois Driver's License(both sides) or an Illinois Identification Card. This also has to be renewed every year.

Visit www.palostownship.org/assessor.php for more information.

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We have found that through the years of publishing the readers are interested in general information and also local happenings within their community. Therefore because we are fully electronic, we will not be accepting faxed or mailed news releases.

Volunteering Keeps Retirees Vital

Volunteering on the part of older adults supports and supplements the work of numerous good causes, according to a 2010 study commissioned by the National Council on Aging.

"There are many aging studies that indicate volunteering is particularly beneficial for the mental health and vitality of seniors because it provides a sense of purpose," says Amanda Mauceri, associate executive director at Smith Village, a continuing care retirement community (CCRC) sponsored by Smith Senior Living in Chicago's South Side Beverly neighborhood. . "There's no shortage of residents who volunteer here. It keeps people busy and excited about life," Mauceri says. "It's wonderful to see so many people motivated by a lively sense of purpose."

Smith Village boasts resident-volunteers who coordinate efforts to raise money for Emilie's Fund, which assists Smith residents who have out-lived their means. Still others participate in walks to raise money for organizations that support medical research for a variety of health issues including Alzheimer's disease, arthritis and cancer. Residents also collect food for food pantries, as well as volunteer their time to organize a variety of special groups and events, from rummage sales to alumni luncheons and veterans club meetings.

Mauceri recommends the following tips for seniors as they think about choosing volunteer opportunities that are fulfilling and rewarding:

Take time for some soul-searching. First consider why you would like to volunteer, whether it's to meet people, help others, give back to the community, improve quality of life or advance the work of a particular cause. Are you looking for a social group? An organization that addresses a particular need? Make a short list of organizations that will help you to achieve your goal.

What would your contribution be? What

Nancy Graves, volunteering in the Smith Village gift shop

proven professional talents can you provide? Or would you prefer to try something completely new? Are you good with handling cash or balancing books? Would you like to commit to the same amount of time each week and help an individual or work with a group?

Consider the amount of time you are willing to commit. If your time is limited, it might be a good idea to consider volunteering close to home. If your goal is to expand your horizons and meet new people, then join an organization that serves people in another neighborhood or participate in an event outside of your community or usual circle of friends.

Think about your particular interests. Acting or working off-stage in community theater, gardening for a neighborhood area, bird watching, assisting with fundraising for your alma mater or for a health-related association are just a few avenues to explore. It's good to research related opportunities online or attend an orientation meeting for new volunteers. Ask those who share your same interests for suggestions too.

Take a look at organizations always calling for volunteers. Hospitals, churches, retirement communities and not-for-profit organizations always appreciate extra help and often have organized programs for volunteers. Check the Web sites of chambers of commerce and read community newspapers for a list of numerous opportunities with phone numbers to call for additional information. Participating in activities and events that take only one day can help you determine which organizations offer the best fit for you.

Among those reaping the benefits of volunteering and residing at Smith Village, 2320 W. 113th Place, is Joan Guilfoyle, 94. A 1939 graduate of Saint Xavier University, she enjoys organizing an annual alumni luncheon.

The process involves sending out the invitations, compiling responses, making reservations, ordering food, arranging for the president of the university to speak, and purchasing table favors.

"This is great fun," Guilfoyle says. "I look forward to it every year. Two classmates and I started this luncheon 28 years ago. The next year it included my sister and others from the class ahead of me. Now it's grown to attract more than 70 people."

With the help of nine other resident-volunteers, Smith Village resident Nancy Graves manages the tidy gift shop located just a few steps from the main entrance to Smith Village. "I guess more than anything I like the fact that this gives me a lot of contact with people," she says. "It keeps me going. And the other volunteers are wonderful, very dependable. If somebody can't make it, they work it out among themselves."

Sue Delves, another Smith Village resident, coordinates two annual rummage sales for the retirement community's residents. Several other residents volunteer with tasks such as watering flowers and transporting fellow-residents to in-house therapy and doctor's appointments.

And about 20 residents, who benefit from Smith Village's memory support services, revive and recycle houseplants, which are sold to raise money for the Alzheimer's Association and Smith Village's Emilie's Fund.

For more information about Smith Village, call 773-474-7300 or visit SmithVillage.org.

Flu Shots

Maxim Health Systems will be at the Oak Lawn Senior Center, 5330 West 95 Street from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday, October 5th to administer flu and pneumonia shots.

For resident over 65, they need to only produce their Medicare card to receive the shot. Prior registration is required.

Call the Senior Center at 708-499-0240 or stop by the Center office to register.

Viverito Senior Center to Host Oktoberfest

The German Oktoberfest tradition is coming to Burbank! Oktoberfest will be taking place on Tuesday, October 9, 2012 at the Louis S. Viverito Senior Center located at 7745 S. Leamington in Burbank. The party will begin with Bingo beginning at 9:30. The Senior Center will be serving German specialties for lunch at 11:30 followed by the fabulous Eddie Korosa, Jr. at noon.

Eddie Korosa, Jr. the son of the legendary Eddie Korosa, America's Prince of Polkas, started playing drums with his dad's band when he was seven years old, and played weekly on his parent's Emmy nominated television show, Eddie Korosa's Polka Party from 1970-1984. When he was ten, Eddie played drums for his dad, as the opening set for Bobby Vinton at the Holiday Star Theater and when Pope John Paul II's motorcade stopped at the Baby Doll Polka Club in 1979. He also frequently played drums with Frankie Yankovic, America's Polka King and has performed with many other polka legends over the years. Even though polkas are Eddie's favorite music, he plays favorite standards from big band waltzes and swing to rock and roll, country, and music from the '20's to the '70's. With the closing of the world famous Baby Doll Polka Club in 2004 (after 50 years), Eddie carries on the "family tradition" of musical entertainment locally and nationally.

For more information or to register for the party please call (708) 636-8850.

Palos Township Health Service

Influenza vaccine is available at Palos Township Health Service, 10802 S. Roberts Rd, Palos Hills.

Immunizations are given during regular clinic hours which are Monday and Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday from 2:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., and Wednesday from 2:00 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.

Call the Health Service at 708-598-2441 for an appointment.

Village of Evergreen Park News

Fall Program Book is online from the Evergreen Park Recreation Department! Visit www.evergreen-park-ill.com. Hard copies of the book are available at the Community Center or the Village Hall.

Annual Evergreen Park Classic Car Show coming on Friday, October 12 at Yukich Field! Great family event: refreshments, cool cars, great music. . .even a good old-fashioned Good Humor Ice Cream Truck! Do you have a classic car to show? Visit us at www.evergreenpark-ill.com and download an entry form!

Fall Tree Program!! We are pleased to announce our bi-annual tree planting program for the Fall of 2012. The program enables residents and business owners alike to choose from a great variety of trees at a reduced cost. Stop in to the Village Hall and get a brochure, or check it out online at www.evergreenpark-ill.com.

From The Office of Citizens Services:

Farmers Market Is Open!

Every Thursday at Yukich Field from 7am to 1pm until October 25, 2012. OCS Mini-Bus is available to transport Evergreen Park residents. Call (708) 422-8776 for an appointment.

"Four Winds Casino" One-Day Trip to New Buffalo, MI

Meals on Wheels Program -available to Evergreen Park residents (60+ unable to prepare their own meals). Meals delivered Monday threw Friday Call (708) 422-8776.

Recreation Department Happenings

Openings for Pre-School!

4 & 5 year olds - Monday, Wednesday and Friday (PM Classes) 12:15pm to 2:45pm

3 year olds - Tuesday and Thursday 9am to 11:30am & Monday/Wednesday/Friday afternoon classes, 12:15pm to 2:45pm

Registration will be taken for children turning 3 years old, for the 2nd and 3rd sessions; children must be potty-trained. Call the Recreation Department for more information, (708) 229-3373.

Adult Boot Camp: Mon.Thurs, Sat. 9am-10am at Yukich Field. $50 for 10 classes.

Youth Department

The Drop-In Center is open! A variety of activities, games and social activities are available for youths from 5th grade through High School. Call the Evergreen Park Youth Commission for additional information and opportunities. This is a safe, fun place to be! (708) 229-3377.

Community Events

Save Your Bowtops for Southeast Elementary School! Box top labels from many participating products (see www.btfe.com) are worth a dime a piece for participating schools; the monies collected are used for education materials. Please visit www.btfe.com for more information!

Youth Department has teens looking for work! Hire village teens to do yard work, clean out the attic, basement or garage. Call (708) 229-3377.

Come to the Bazaar!

The Bazaar: featuring Homemade Greek Food & Pastries and Artists, Crafters & Vendor Show is the "place to be" on Saturday, October 20th and Sunday, October 21st.

Homemade Greek Food & Pastries / Artist, Crafter & Vendor Show!

It's hard to believe that 40 years ago, the Ladies Philoptochos Society of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church hosted the "only show in town" with its first bazaar. Now, the 40th Annual Bazaar promises to be just as exciting! For months the ladies have been preparing delectable food & pastries while assembling a unique and creative array of artisans to showcase their wares. Handmade items include jewelry, wooden plaques & puzzles, leather accessories, handbags, infant bedding, holiday decor, clothing, stationery, furniture, serving pieces, spa items, teddy bears, items for all ages for the home, to wear or to give. Vendors will offer computer rebuilding, gold buying, cosmetics and more.

For the eating pleasure of guests, homemade Greek Food & Pastries including succulent baked Grecian Chicken & Potatoes, Gyros, Pastichio (macaroni, cheese, ground beef & bechamel sauce casserole), Spanakopita (spinach & feta mixture wrapped in filo), Tiropites (cheese & egg mixture wrapped in filo), Greek Salad, Hot Dogs and more... Eat in or take home!

And at the Greek Goody Stations, homemade Breads, Cookies, Pastries, Olives, Appetizer Spreads.

Guests looking for a chocolate fix can stop at Georgia's Candy Shop featuring homemade candies, Cupid Candies Caramel Apples, Chocolates and much more.

St. Nicholas Church is well-know in the community for its annual Father's Day Festival featuring homemade Greek food & pastries, carnival rides, Greek dancing, music and family summer fun.

The Bazaar will take place at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church - Community Center, 10301 S. Kolmar Avenue in Oak Lawn, IL: Saturday, October 20, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday, October 21, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Admission is $1. Parking is free.

For more information, please contact the hostesses: at 708-636-7874 or stnickphilo@yahoo.com.

Marrs-Meyer American Legion Post 991

One man bands on Friday & Saturday at 8pm to11 pm. No cover charge.

Planning a Halloween Custom Party in our bar on the October 26, 2012, Friday with music.

November we have our Turkey Day Nov 3 at 1PM. Veteran Memorial on Nov 11 at 11AM on 111th & Harlem, Nov 17 & 18 Ton of Food Drive for Needy in Worth and other Ton of Food Drive for Christmas on Dec 15th & 16th, 2012..

We are also planning our first New Year's Eve Party, open to Public with Bobby Dunne Band, food, champagne & party favors $25 per person. Advance Tickets sold at our Bar starting middle of October, limited number to be sold, no tickets sold at door.

Marrs-Meyer American Legion Post 991 is located at 11001 S. Depot Ave.,Worth, IL. Call 708/448-7006 or 708/448-6699 for more information.

Free Medicare Seminar at Orland Township

Orland Township, 14807 S. Ravinia Avenue, is hosting a free Medicare seminar on Tuesday, October 9, 2012 from 10 a.m. to noon in The Board Room.

The seminar will cover most aspects of Medicare, including enrollment periods, Medicare Part A and B benefits, deductibles and benefit periods, Medicare Part D prescription drug assistance, assignment and non-assignment, home health care and hospice care, skilled nursing facilities, managed care, supplemental insurance policies, low-income programs and SHIP (Senior Health Insurance Program). Refreshments will be served.

To reserve a spot in the seminar or for additional information, please call (708) 403-4222.

Burbank Chamber
STATE of the CITY
LUNCHEON
Thursday, October 25, 2012
Call for Information
708-425-4668

IT'S ONE THING FOR YOU
TO GET CAUGHT IN THE RAIN.

IT'S ANOTHER FOR EVERYTHING
IN YOUR HOUSE TO.

Just a few inches of floodwater can end up costing thousands of dollars in repairs, and flood damage isn't covered by homeowners insurance.

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5732 W 87th Street, Burbank
(708) 499-2523

"Mowimy po polsku!"

Orland Park Public Library announces adult programs for October

The Orland Park Public Library will host a variety of free events for adults in October.

Preserving Family History with Scrapbooking

Monday, October 8 at 7 p.m.

Preserve your family history with nostalgic photos and important documents as bookmaker Nancy Vachon teaches the basics of scrapbooking with a visually creative approach.

The Mystery of Living: Packing for Syria with Agatha Christie

Tuesday, October 9 at 7 p.m.

Living historian Betsey Means will portray Agatha Christie as she performs a one-woman show on how the "Queen of Crime's" interest in archaeology influenced many of her mystery books.

Line Dancing Through the Decades

Wednesdays, October 10 and 17 at 7 p.m.

Learn a different line dance each week with dynamic instructor Melanie Herman. Wear comfortable clothing and get ready for a workout!

Author Visit: Jodee Blanco

The Please Stop Laughing at Me ... Journal

Thursday, October 11 at 7 p.m.

Best-selling author Jodee Blanco helps bullying victims of all ages cope with the emotional and physical results of bullying. She will discuss her newest work, an innovative journal designed to draw its users out of their silence.

Protecting Yourself from Financial Exploitation

Thursday, October 11 at 2 p.m.

Join Amy DeLaney, a certified elder law attorney, as she discusses financial exploitation cases, social services, legal aid, and the court system's handling of elder law issues. She will also offer suggestions on how to recover stolen or ill-gotten funds and what protective measures can be taken to ensure financial stability.

Writers Group

Monday, October 15 at 7 p.m.

Aspiring and experienced writers are invited to join this new monthly group for peer discussion and feedback about the writing process.

The History, Politics, and Impact of the Space Program

Tuesday, October 16 at 7 p.m.

Dr. Pangratios Papacosta, physics professor at Chicago's Columbia College, will discuss the many reasons we explore space including strong political, economic, and military motives. This program is made possible with a grant from the Illinois Humanities Council.

NFL's Oldest Rivalry

Thursday, October 18 at 7 p.m.

Joe Ziemba will take an unusual look at the oldest rivalry in the National Football League - the Bears and the Cardinals. Ziemba will present rare archival photos and offer some surprising insight into local football pioneers such as Bronko Nagaurski, Jim Thorpe, and many others.

All programs are free and registration is not required. For more information, visit orlandlibrary.org or call 708-428-5100. The library is located at 14821 Ravinia Avenue in Orland Park.

City of Oak Forest e-Briefs

Senior Commission hosts health fair on October 11

The Oak Forest Senior Citizens Commission's Senior Health Fair is on Thursday, October 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Oak Forest Park District, 15601 S. Central Avenue. For more information, please call 708-687-4050, ext. 1607 or e-mail ofseniorcomm@oak-forest.org.

Don't miss the 32nd Annual Community Awareness Fair

The Oak Forest-Crestwood Area Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual Community Awareness Fair on Saturday, October 13 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Oak Forest High School, 151st Street and Central Avenue. While at the fair, donate blood at the Oak Forest Rotary Club's Blood Drive.

Join the Bark for a Park Committee at the 1st Annual Pup Crawl on October 14

Leash up your pooch and head out for some fun at the 1st Annual Pup Crawl on Sunday, October 14 from 1 to 4 p.m. For only $10, you and your family will enjoy activities at every stop. All proceeds will benefit the dog park opening soon in the Forest Preserve District's Bremen Grove.

City looking ahead as it continues to negotiate a new water system

The City of Oak Forest is currently negotiating with the Village of Oak Lawn – its water supplier – to create a water system that is capable of pumping water to the 13 communities it serves even in the direst of circumstances.

Cook County Sheriff accepting applications for Youth Service Medal of Honor Awards This program was established to recognize Cook County youth that volunteered a minimum of 100 hours of service during the previous year. High school students who meet the necessary criteria are honored at a ceremony where Sheriff Thomas J. Dart presents the awards. Applications are due October 13.

Are you registered to vote?

If you want to vote in the 2012 Presidential Election on November 6, you must register to vote by Tuesday, October 9. Residents can register to vote at City Hall, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Prospective voters should bring two pieces of identification to register, including one displaying a current address.

Call and advertise your Open Houses, Career Nights, Visitors Days and Tours. For details call 708-425-1910.

Chicago Jitterbug Club

presents

A Fall Ball

(Note: this is a fancy dress/black-tie/suit jacket event)

Saturday, October 13th

Glendora House Ballroom • 10225 S. Harlem Ave.

8:00 pm - 12:30 am *(Sorry, no seating before 7:45)*

Featuring Deejay Mr. Norman

Admission Donation: $5 Members/ABA Sisters - $10 Nonmembers & Guests

Open Seating – No Reservations Necessary!

Free Snacks - Giant $plit the Pot and other Prizes

For more info, call 708/388/JUMP (5867) or visit chicagojitterbugclub.org

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Therapeutic Massage helps restore balance, and brings the body back to normal by triggering the relaxation response. Massage also relieves many of the mental and physical problems caused by prolonged stress.

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$45.00 for 1 Hour	$55.00	$130.00
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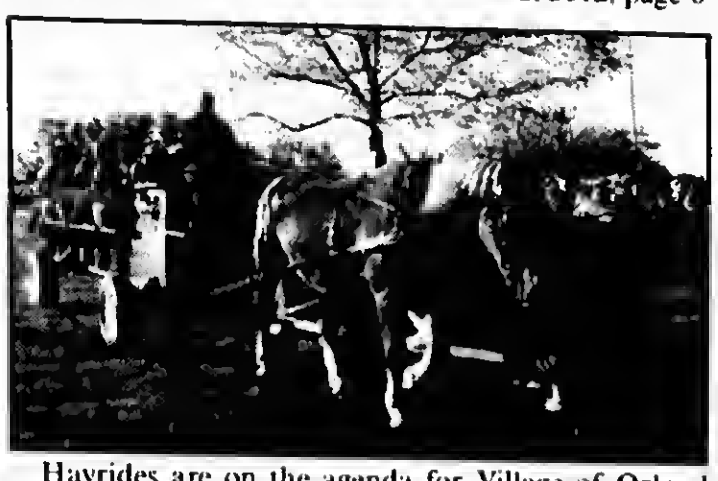


Hayrides are on the agenda for Village of Orland Park's October 6 Pumpkin Party at Centennial Park

Village of Orland Park to Host "The Great Pumpkin Party"

Get your pie eating skills ready for the Pie Eating Contest at the Village of Orland Park's October 6 Pumpkin Party at Centennial Park.

Scarecrows, Pie Eating, Costumed Pets and Pumpkins Return!

The Village of Orland Park is gearing up for the fall season. On Saturday, October 6, its Recreation Department will host "The Great Pumpkin Party" at the Centennial Park Warming House, 15600 West Avenue .

"The village's Pumpkin Party was very well received and attended last year and we're looking forward to another great event full of fun fall activities," said Mayor Dan McLaughlin.

Free and open to all ages, the party will be held from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m. and will include a number of activities including hayrides, fall crafts, a pie eating contest, scarecrow stuffing, games, roasting marshmallows, movies, a flashlight pumpkin hunt, and pet parade/costume contest. Attendees are invited to wear Halloween costumes.

Representatives from the Bulls/Sox Academy will teach basic hitting techniques and will conduct a raffle for a prize.

"The village's Pumpkin Party brings back traditions that many of us remember from when we were kids," said Trustee Pat Gira, chair of the village's Recreation and Parks Committee. "This is a festive event that's sure to be enjoyed by everyone," she added.

Scarecrow making will be held from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. Participants should bring old clothes, a hat, panty hose for the head. Straw, string and directions will be provided. Participation in the contest is optional and judging will take place at 6 p.m. with categories including most original, scariest and cutest.

Bakers Square is co-sponsoring the village's Pie Eating Contest which will be held at 5 p.m. Three different age groups, eight to eleven years, twelve to seventeen and eighteen and older, will compete to see who can eat an entire banana cream pie the fastest. Prizes will be awarded to the winners of each category. Participation is limited and registration will be taken at the event.

The Pet Costume Parade will be held at 4:30 p.m., co-sponsored by Eatz and Treatz, and Dag Bones. Participants are encouraged to bring their costumed animals for the parade/contest. Prizes will be awarded after the parade for most spooky, most unique, look-alike and most current – "in the moment."

The Flashlight Pumpkin Hunt will begin at 7 p.m. in the grassy woods of Centennial Park . Among the pumpkins will be ten prize pumpkins. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own flashlights and pumpkins will be limited one per family for the first 350. The hunt begins at 7 p.m. and ends when the pumpkins are gone or at 8 p.m., whichever comes first.

Free parking for The Great Pumpkin Party will be available at Centennial Park and at the adjacent Metra Train Station, accessible via 153rd Street .

This Village of Orland Park event is sponsored by Central Credit Union of Illinois, Orland Park Bank & Trust, The Maids, Volkswagen of Orland Park, Baker's Square, Eatz & Treatz and Dag Bonz.

Further information about the Village of Orland Park 's "Great Pumpkin Party" is available by calling the Recreation Department at 708-403-7275.

Bridgeview Public Library

Put on your dancing shoes and join us for an hour of "Music from Movies and Musicals". Eugene Kwok, musician extraordinaire, will delight with old and new favorite show tunes at The Bridgeview Public Library, 7840 West 79th Street, Saturday, October 20, 2012 at 2:00 P.M. (Singing along is encouraged!)

Please call: (708) 458-2880 for more details.

Book Sale

Friends of the Midlothian Public Library Used Book Sale on Saturday, October 6, 2012 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Friends of the Library, Members Only Sale on Friday, October 5, from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

Midlothian Public Library is located at 14701 S. Kenton Ave. Midlothian, IL 60445.

Call 708-535-2027 with any questions.

St. Laurence High School Mothers' Club

All Dabber Super Bingo

Total Payout $2250

Sunday
October 14, 2012

St. Laurence High School
5556 W. 77th Street, Burbank (77th & Central Ave)
Entrance and Parking at the North end of the building
Tickets $20.00 - $1 Door Card

Doors Open 12:00 noon, Games begin at 2:00pm.

Pull Tabs * Great Food * Bake Sale * Free Coffee
Plenty of parking

For tickets or more details, call Mothers' Club
708-458-6900 ext 411 or email momsclub@stlaurence.com
Mark your payment envelope: Mothers Club Super Bingo
Limited tickets available - Cash only at the door

St. Laurence High School

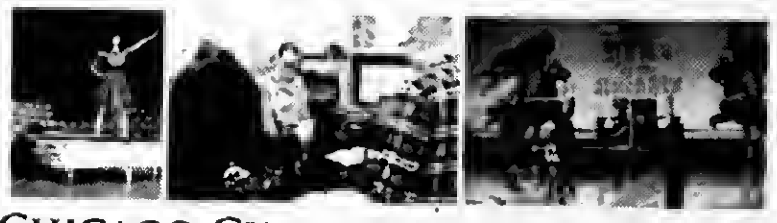
"Where Leadership Begins"

Presents

Tailgate Trivia Night

Saturday, November 3, 2012
St. Laurence High School • 5556 W. 77th St.
Burbank, Il 60459 (77th & Central Ave.)
708-458-6900 x411 • **momsclub@stlaurence.com**
Doors Open at 6:00pm Kickoff at 7:00pm
Game Plan:
Ten people to a table (Reserved under one name)
Cost $150.00 Prepaid
Bring your own food or order food from area restaurants
Beer, Wine, Mike's Hard Lemonade, pop and water will be sold
No outside liquor allowed
Raffle / Split the Pot
Please send table request along with payment to:
Attention St. Laurence Mothers' Club
Tables are sold on a first paid basis; no table will be held without payment
Must be 21 years old to attend and play

SOUTHWEST CHICAGO CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION
12001 S OAK PARK AVENUE, PALOS HEIGHTS - 708/388-7656 - WWW.SWCHRISTIAN.ORG



CHICAGO CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL
Open House
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14
REGISTRATION FROM 1:45 TO 2:00 PM
PROGRAM STARTS AT 2:00 PM

WINTER OPEN HOUSE:
THURSDAY, JANUARY 24
7PM

7TH GRADE STEP UP DAY
TUESDAY, MARCH 19
9AM – 12:30 PM

EXPLORE TEST DATES:
- NOVEMBER 3
- FEBRUARY 2
- MAY 4

LEARN ABOUT:
- ACADEMICS
- STEM CURRICULUM

SHADOW DAYS
We welcome 8th grade students to schedule an appointment to shadow at CCHS anytime throughout the school year. Special focus dates:
Thursday, November 15—The Arts
Friday, January 18—Athletics & School Spirit

A CHRIST-CENTERED LEARNING COMMUNITY INTENT ON RESTORING GOD'S WORLD

Queen of Peace community celebrates International Day of Peace

Students and faculty of Queen of Peace High School commemorated the International Day of Peace at a special liturgy to mark the school's continued commitment to working for peace around the world. Father Thomas Hurley, pastor of Old St. Patrick's Church in Chicago, presided over the liturgy and blessed the "Peace Pole" that serves as a reminder of international unity, languages and cultures.

For more information, call 708-458-7600 or visit the school's web site at www.queenofpeacechs.org.

The Blue Island Fishing Derby is Back

Come fish for live fish without leaving town. This October, the Blue Island Park District will fill it's swimming pool with fish friendly waters and hundreds of live fish eager to be caught. So pick up you fishing rods and make your way to the Memorial Park Pool and take part in the best family friendly event in the fall. Come prepared, bring your best rod, bait and tackle box to fish like a pro. We recommend bringing your own bucket if you intend on keeping your catch. The Blue Island Park District will have a limited number of fishing rods for those that come unprepared.

Fishing At The Pool

October 5th through October 8th

Friday and Saturday - 4p - 7p

Sunday and Monday - 12p - 4p

All ages are welcome

Memorial Park Pool

12804 S. Highland Ave.

Fee -$3 pre-purchase (available at the Memorial Park Field House Monday through Friday 10a - 6pm)

$5 at the door.

Want to test your skills? Don't miss this!

Fishing Derby - "where they count"

October 8th at 2pm

All ages are welcome.

Regular fees apply.

Blue Island Park Dist. 12804 S. Highland Ave. Blue Island, Illinois 60406.

Joan Murphy to Speak on Health, Healing and Laughter

Joan Murphy, R.N. Ph.D., will be the featured speaker at a health forum sponsored by Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, Intouch Home Care, Program of Evergreen Park.

The event will take place on Saturday, October 6th from 10 a.m. to 12 Noon at United by Faith Lutheran Church, 3240 W. 98th Street in Evergreen Park. All are invited to attend.

The title of the presentation is, "It's a Wonderful Life: Health, Healing and Laughter." Joan Murphy is a dynamic speaker and an inspiration to all who have attended her entertaining seminars. She has served in the healthcare field for more than 30 years and empowers each individual to own their health with passion and pride. Joan is noted for integrating the physical and the spiritual into a holistic approach to health care.

Joan is the Director of the Health Education Center at Little Company of Mary Hospital. This engaging and informative event is co-sponsored by St. John Fisher Catholic Church and United by Faith Lutheran Church. No reservations necessary. Information: Call Jim White, Intouch Community Liaison, at 773-870-8336.

3rd Annual Oktoberfest

Downtown Whiting, IN

Saturday, October 6th, 2012 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Live Entertainment
Arts & Crafts
Food Vendors
Beer Garden
Kids Games & Rides
4th Annual Chili Cook Off

11 a.m.-2 p.m. Bad Decisions — Beer Garden Stage
1 p.m.-4 p.m. Bertha Meiners German Band — Corner of LaPorte & 119th St.
3 p.m.-6 p.m. Wicked Planets — Beer Garden Stage
7 p.m.-11 p.m. 80's Lounge — Beer Garden Stage

Scarecrow Contest
Pumpkin Patch
Bingo Tent
Bake Sale
Tip Booths
Hay Rides

For more information, contact the Whiting-Robertsdale Chamber of Commerce at 219-659-0292

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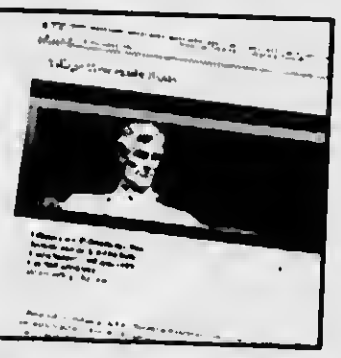

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12:00-3:00 PM

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Athletics — A tradition of success
Activities — Something for everybody

Honors Open House
Wednesday, November 14th
6:30 PM

Open House II
Sunday December 2nd
12:00-2:00 PM

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District 130 Announces Filing Period for 2013 School Board Election

Candidate packets including nominating petition forms for the April 9, 2013 school board election for Cook County School District 130 are now available. Forms may be picked up at District Office located at 12300 S. Greenwood Avenue in Blue Island on any business day between the hours of 8 am and 4:30 pm.

Four seats on the seven-member Board of Education will be filled at the April 9 election. Candidates elected will serve four-year terms expiring in April 2017.

A school board candidate's nominating papers must be filed in District Office no earlier than 8 am on Monday, December 17 and no later than 5 pm on Monday, December 24. As required by law, District Office will remain open until 5 pm on December 24 for the last day of filing. Nominating papers may be filed by the candidate in person, by mail or by an agent. Candidates' names will appear on the election ballot in the order in which their nominating papers are filed and a lottery will be held to determine ballot order for petitions filed simultaneously.

To be eligible to serve, a school board member must be, on the date of election, a citizen of the United States, at least 18 years of age, a registered voter, and a resident of the State of Illinois and of Cook County School District 130 for at least one year immediately preceding the election. The school board election is nonpartisan, and board candidates do not run under political party affiliation. Candidates should be aware of financial conflict-of-interest limitations set forth in state law.

Illinois law requires that any candidate seeking election to a board of education must file:

Nominating petitions bearing the signatures of at least 50 citizens who are registered to vote in the school district. Petitions must be securely bound together with pages numbered consecutively, and each page must carry the notarized signature of the petition circulator;

A statement of candidacy;

A receipt from the County Clerk showing that the candidate has filed a Statement of Economic Interests for calendar year 2012;

The fourth form, a loyalty oath, is optional.

Other important dates for candidates include:

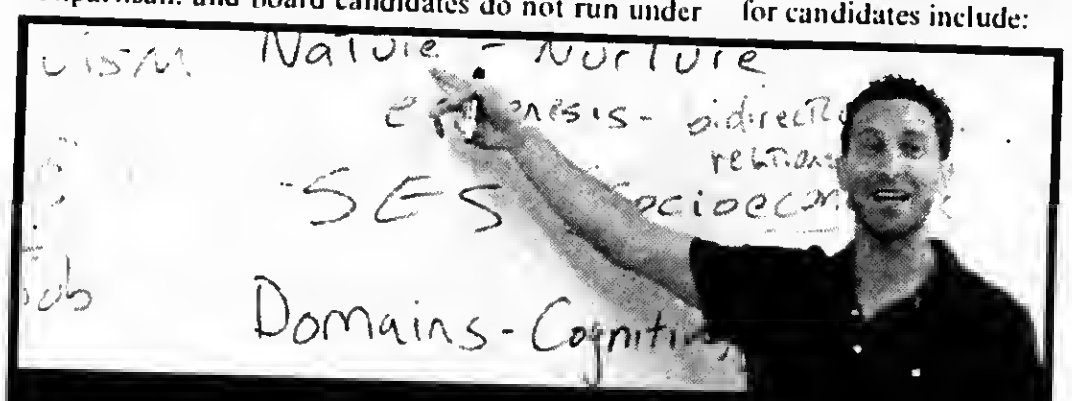
Wednesday, January 2, 2013: last day for filing objections to the nominating papers of candidates who have filed for the April 9 school board election.

Thursday, January 31, 2013: last day candidate may file notarized papers withdrawing nomination.

For persons interested in running for the Board of Education who would like to receive useful information over the next several months that is pertinent to potential candidates, please contact Lenore Guyton at 708-489-7006 or email lguyton@district130.org or Laurie Hoge at 708-489-7019 or email lhoge@district130.org. For questions about nominating procedures or the election, please contact District Office at 708-385-6800 or the Cook County Clerk at 312-603-0906.

For additional information about the nature and duties of serving on a school board, contact the Illinois Association of School Board for a free booklet, "Your School Board and You." To obtain the booklet, individuals may write: IASB, 2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62703. The booklet is also available at the Association's website: www.iasb.com/training/community_resources.cfm.

Cook County School District 130 serves nearly 4,100 students at thirteen school sites. The district serves portions of the communities of: Alsip, Blue Island, Crestwood and Robbins.



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Library Trustees Sought

The Midlothian Public Library Board of Trustees is seeking village residents who may be interested in running for a position on the Library Board in the April 2013 general election. Anyone who is interested in library policies, budgets, and the role a library plays in the community is invited to run. The board welcomes members with all areas of experience, but a business and financial background would be a plus. The board encourages interested persons to attend one of its monthly meetings, which will be held on Tuesday, October 16 or Tuesday, November 20 at 7 p.m. Election petitions must be submitted to the Village Hall in late December, 2012.

St. Laurence High School Announces Commended Student in the 2013 National Merit® Scholarship Program

St. Laurence High School's principal, Mr. James Muting, is proud to announce that Michael Hyc has been named a Commended Student in the 2013 National Merit Scholarship Program. Mr. Muting will present a Letter of Commendation from the school and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), which conducts the program, to this scholastically talented senior.

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2013 competition for National Merit Scholarship awards, Commended Students placed among the top 5 percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2013 competition by taking the 2011 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®).

"Mike is an exemplary student, athlete, and leader," said Mr. Muting. "He is involved in all areas of the school and school community. Being a Commended Student in the National Merit Scholarship program is quite an achievement. Mike is very deserving."

Queen of Peace High School announces 2012 Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees

Queen of Peace High School will induct members of the 2012 Athletic Hall of Fame at a special ceremony on Wednesday, October 3, 2012 at 7:15 p.m. The fifth annual Hall of Fame ceremony will take place in the school's gymnasium, located at 7659 S. Linder Avenue in Burbank, following the Queen of Peace-De LaSalle varsity volleyball match which starts at 6 p.m.

The 2012 Queen of Peace Hall of Fame inductees include members of the 1992-93 Peace Basketball team: Kelly Walsh, Jennifer Knobbe Walsh, Kelly Zawisza, Joanne DeYoung Cahill, Tracey Budz, Karolyn Horn, Shelby Schuler Elstner, Shannon McClain, Hollie O'Hara Mueller, Bridget McDermott Daley, Kathleen Hall Coyne, Kristin Loverde, and Katie Reidy. In addition, former volleyball player Melissa Vandrey ('00) and soccer player Kiera Vizza will be honored, along with Tony Grazutis, a friend of Peace Athletics.

Queen of Peace invites alumnae and community members to cheer on the 2012 Athletic Hall of Fame honorees as they receive their awards. For more information, call 708-458-7600 or visit the school's web site at www.queenofpeacehs.org.

Queen of Peace, a Catholic Dominican of Sinsinawa college preparatory high school, educates and empowers diverse young women in an environment that inspires academic excellence. The school is located at 7659 S. Linder Avenue in Burbank, Illinois. For more information, call 708-458-7600 or visit the school's web site at www.queenofpeacehs.org.

I Love Lucy

by Alan Bresloff

Staged and directed by Rick Sparks who has added new material with Kim Flagg on a set designed to be that of a television studio and what appears to be complete copies of the sets on the show- their apartment and Ricky's Tropicana Nightclub. The apartment is much more realistic than the club . The show is made up of two actual episodes, "The Benefit" and "Lucy Has Her Eyes Examined", both of which were written by her staff writers, Jess Oppenheimer,Madelyn Pugh and Bob Carroll Jr.- names that were well known in the industry. While there was a lot of humor in theste episodes, they are nothing compared to what we have today, but these were simpler times and we didn't expect as much on our large screen 21Ø black and white television set.

What makes this show fun is the behind the scenes look we get as our host, Maury Jasper (deftly handled by local actor Ed Kross, who has done the host thing before only on radio in earlier year. He is always a hoot and although I am sure there is a script, appears to be playing off the audience as if his part was ad-lib). He works and speaks wit the audience, explains what is going to take place during the 100 minutes we will be there and keeps the show moving.

The rest of the east are energetic performers who take on a myriad of roles, doing commercials (Brylcreem,Alka-Seltzer and many more of the oldies), dancing a few numbers of the top tunes of the days. Much of this is done during set changes and costume changes.

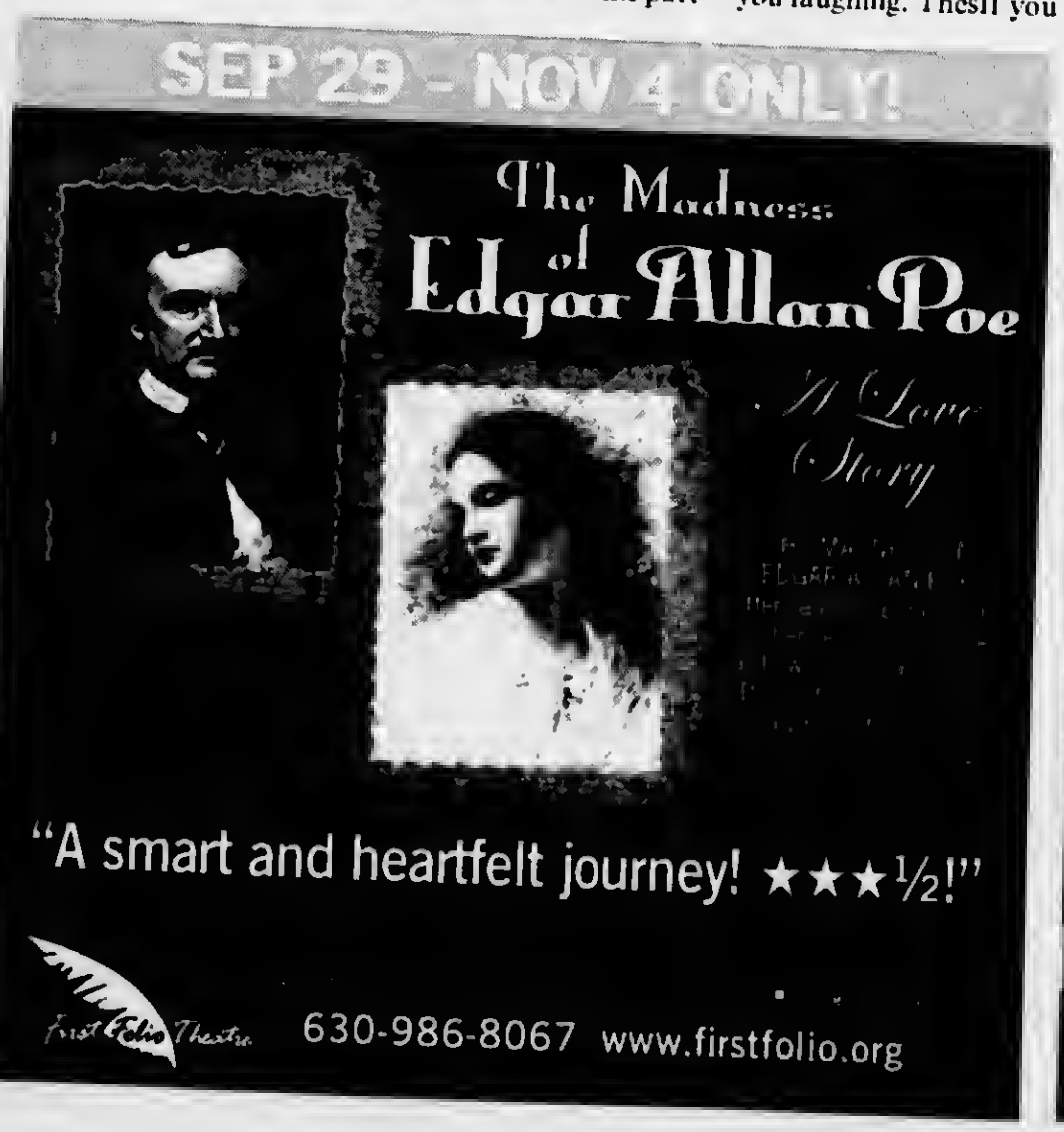
There is even a contest on "Lucy" between two audience members. I will tell you that one is actual and the other planted, but a fun scene that will have you laughing. Theslf you can recall the "good old days" and would like to "return to yesteryear", at least for around 100 minutes, you can do so at The Broadway In Chicago Playhouse located at 175 E. Chestnut (Water Tower Place), just off Michigan Avenue through November 11th with performances as follows: Wednesdays at 2 and 7:30 p.m..Thursdays at 7:30 p.m..Fridays at 7:30 p.m..Saturdays at 2 and 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 and 6 p.m.

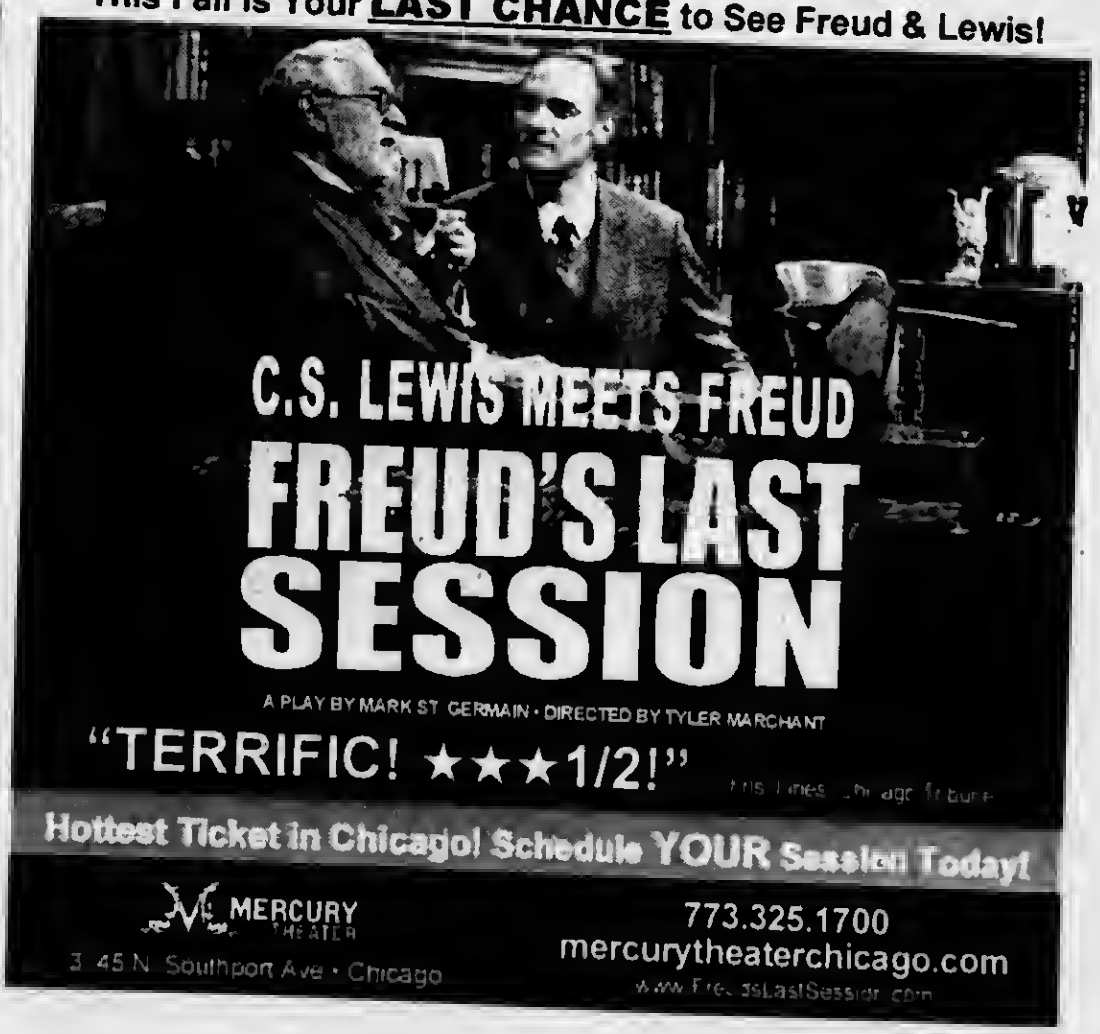
Tickets range from $23-$65 and can be purchased at any of the Broadway In Chicago box offices.by calling the Broadway In Chicago ticketline at 1-800-775-2000, at all Ticketmaster outlets and online at www.BroadwayInChicago.com

There is discounted parking in the Water Tower Place lot (bring you ticket to the box office for validation) and there are some wonderful dining spots right in the shopping center including several Lettuce Entertain You dining spots.

Chicago Ridge Resident Turns 100

Congratulations to Elsie (Wolske) Meisnest on celebrating her 100th birthday on September 1st. Elsie was born on the Southside of Chicago where she lived for 34 years. In 1946 she married Erwin Meisnest and moved to California and lived there until 1962. They then moved to Appleton, Wisconsin. Elsie moved back to Chicago in 1970 after Erwin passed away and went to work for Wieboldt's until she retired. Elsie has lived in Chicago Ridge for the past 32 years. She joined the Ridge Village Senior Club in 1989 and has been an active member serving as Treasurer and Activity Arranger since then. The Ridge Village Senior Club had a surprise party for Elsie on September 4th at the Senior Citizen Center and presented a letter from President Obama commemorating this milestone. Mayor Gene Siegel and Clerk Chuck Tokar were in attendance as were Elsie's family, her two nieces and nephew. Elsie was presented with a bouquet of flowers and a big kiss from Mayor Siegel.





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Death Notice

Judy A. Bramwell nee Wozniak age 56: tragically: beloved wife of Douglas Bennett: dear Mommy of Jodie Bramwell, Jamie (Simon III) Juarez, Jeanne (Alberto) Jimenez, Freddie (Clarissa) Bramwell and Jessica (Martin) Varela: loving Grandma of Alexa-Rae, Anastasia, Haley, Simon IV, Justin, Alberto Jr., Morgan, Jayden, Adan, Angelus, Joshua and soon to be Little Freddie III; dear daughter of LaVerne and the late Richard Wozniak; loving sister of the late Patricia (late John) Gay, Richard (Bo) Wozniak and Cindy (Steve) Schultz; also survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Dedicated employee for over twenty years of Vito and Nick's Pizza. Visitation Thursday, September 27, 2012: 2:00-9:00 pm at Kosary Funeral Home 9837 S. Kedzie, Evergreen Park. Funeral Friday September 28th 9:30 am from chapel to St. Gall Church for Mass 11:00 am Interment Resurrection Cemetery (708) 499-3223.

Date of Death September 22, 2012 at Christ Hospital. Born and lived in Chicago. Occupation Manager / Bartender Vito & Nick's Pizza.

Food & Cooking

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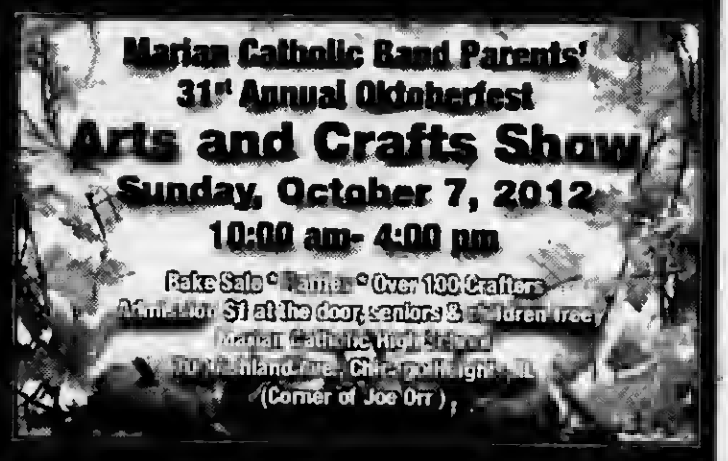
Saturday
October 13, 2012
10 am to 3 pm
Bake Sale
Lunch Room



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19th Annual Holiday Craft Show
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SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 39 | Number 8 | October 16, 2012

Burbank, Evergreen Park, Hickory Hills, Justice, Oak Lawn

Evergreen Park Approves Electric Aggregation Opt-out Program

by Matt Mayer

Officials at the Oct 1 Evergreen Park Board of Trustees meeting approved ordinance 26-2012 which is in compliance with section 1-92 of the Illinois Power Act. 20ILCS 3855/1-92. This ordinance allows the village to operate an electric aggregation program as an opt-out program for residential and small commercial retail customers if approved by referendum. Residents approved an electric aggregation referendum, which included an opt-out provision on the March 2012 election ballot.

At the previous meeting, officials unanimously approved a two year contract with New York based Verde Electric Corporation. At the previous board meeting, president pro-tem Jerry Bosch said residents who wish to stay in the electrical aggregation program will pay 4.6 cents per kilowatt-hour as opposed to the current 8 cents per kilowatt-hour. Village attorney Vincent Cainkar said residents who are now using an electricity provider other than Com-Ed are automatically included in the program, and may be penalized for opting out of their current supplier, said Cainkar. Those residents should consider opting out of the villages contract with Verde and speak to their suppliers regarding the condition of their existing contract, said Cainkar. Addition information regarding VEC may be obtained by visiting their website www.verdeelectric.com.

Other highlights: An ordinance providing for the issuance of not to exceed $1,700,000 general obligation taxable refunding bonds 2012C of the village, and a levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay the principal and interest on the bonds was approved as well as a request from Evergreen Park High School to hold a 2.26 Mini-Marathon on Sunday Oct. 21 as part of the Anti-Bullying Week's activities. A request from First United Methodist Church to hold a "Trunk-n-Treat" event on Wednesday Oct 31 was also approved. Also Wednesday Oct 31 was proclaimed "Halloween in the Village of Evergreen Park".

Hickory Hills Amends Chronic Nuisance Ordinance

by Jan Glaz

The Board of Trustees moved to amend the city's Chronic Nuisance Ordinance at the October 11th Hickory Hills City Council Meeting. Properties considered chronic nuisances are a financial burden. The earmark of a nuisance is an act that interferes with a community's enjoyment of a land, area, or region, and includes anything that disturbs the health and safety of the people of the community. The problem is chronic if there are repeated calls to the police department for service to the properties. When three or more nuisance calls occur on a property within a twelve month period the property is in violation: subject to fines, penalties, and the closure of the property. Aldermen, with the support of the City Attorney, extended the time period from 12 to 16 months.

Tree removal savings: Alderman Zimmerman brought forth a motion to allow the Public Works Department to engage a contract with John's Pro Tree Service to remove 18 trees and stump them, at a cost of $6,450. Public Works Director, L. Boettcher, related that the city received a lower price from John's Pro Tree Service because their company can save time and money by hauling tree chips to the village yard instead of transporting the chips out of the city. While the tree service is in town residents in need of tree removal can also take advantage of a lower price to cut trees. Boettcher invited citizens to call the Public Works Department.

At the end of the meeting Alderman McHugh reported elevator problems at City Hall and sought approval to hire Colley Elevator Company based in Chicago after receiving estimates from Elevator Systems and Elite Elevator. Colley offered a twenty year warranty as opposed to the others offering ten years. Price Range: Colley $15,728, as opposed to $15,800 and $27,500. "We're quite excited about the offer," said McHugh.

Trustee Questions Bands Fee for Fall On the Green Performance

by Matt Mayer

Discussion regarding Fall on the Green arose at the Oct Oak Lawn Board of Trustees meeting, when Trustee Bob Streit (D-3) Chairman of the Special Events Committee, asserted that New Jersey based Bruce Springfield cover band Tramps Like Us was paid $10,000 to perform at the Fall on the Green on Sunday Sept. 9.

They were also compensated with five free hotel rooms at the Oak Lawn Hilton, $2,000 to spend on radio advertising, and eight wristbands for the sponsorship tent, which was all part of the bands deal with Trustee Tom Phelan, said Streit.

The village was also billed for musical equipment for three other venues in Illinois during the three day Fall on the Green Event, said Streit. No other band has ever charged more than $3,500 to perform at Fall on the Green they performed at Bourbon Street in Merrrionette Park and the Hard Rock Café in Chicago and received $3,000 for those events, said Streit.

Why is the village paying $10,000 for a Sunday night performance, which is an off night, when amounts paid to other bands ranged from $400 to $3500 for performing at Fall on the Green, said Streit.

Mayor Dave Heilmann said he feels it's illegal for the village to be required to pay for equipment used at three of the bands other venues outside of the village. The village can't be paying for equipment rental for a band performing outside of the village, said Heilmann. I don't understand why the village would pay $10,000 for a band. All we are trying to do is find out if this is a legitimate expense. When taxpayers are paying that kind of money, we have a right to look into the matter and find out what occurred, said Heilmann.

I called several east coast venues and found that they paid between $3,000 and $3,500 per venue. A cease and desist letter from the band's attorney also arrived at the village today, said Heilmann.

In a heated response to Streit's allegations, Trustees Tom Phelan said he wasn't the only person who negotiated contract with bands. Tramps Like Us initially proposed a fee of between $18,000 and $20,000. The most the village would pay is $10,000, said Phelan. The limousines and hotel rooms were donated by the Mancari's Chrysler dealership and the Hilton. The board has tried to figure this out on several occasions. I have a multi-page color coded documents which show what exactly occurred. "It is juvenile to talk about the things we've discovered when it was all communicated and signed off by a manager," said Phelan.

"Never in the five months since I have been replaced by Streit as Special Events Chairman have I been asked about the circumstances of any of this. We can quibble about bands, that is want is important to residents, not millions in legal fees", Phelan shot back.

"I have to question being that the contract didn't mention that the village was responsible for equipment rentals in other towns", said Heilmann. "If the band says we can only perform for 18 or 20 grand, perhaps we can't afford them. Why are we paying the lions share on the weakest of nights", said Heilmann.

Justice Schools Participate in Cell Phone Free Zones

by Jan Glaz

City Officials agreed to purchase and install the proper signs in school zones that are designated as Cell Phone Free Areas at the Village of Justice President and Board of Trustees Meeting on October 8th. Trustee Kuban explained that the approval pertains to a law passed by the State of Illinois effective January 1st. The law states that it is illegal for anyone operating a motor vehicle to use a wireless communication in a school zone; this includes talking and texting, unless using a hands-free device. To enforce the law a municipality, county, or other political subdivision must post a sign that complies with the standard at the entrance to the school crossing zone areas: 500 feet from the school. Violators will be fined, there is no grace period. Trustee Kuban also brought a motion that passed to install speed bumps on 85th Place adjacent to Player School.

Trustee Sue Small reminded all residents that on October 28th the Resurrection 5K Run, approximately three and a half miles, sponsored by Indian Springs School District #109 will occur. Road closures to through traffic are anticipated during morning hours. There will be limited access to Bethania Cemetery and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church to allow for cemetery visitors and church-goers. Additional information will be listed on the village website.

The last order of business approved by the city council was the motion introduced by Trustee Ed Rusch Jr. for the business license of Universal Gaming Group LLC doing business in the Village of Justice.

Village View

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FAR SOUTH EDITION

Volume 10 | Number 20 | October 16, 2012

Oak Forest, Orland Park, Tinley Park

Photo by Heather Warthen

Dave & Buster's Now Open

Employees from Dave & Buster's cut the ribbon to mark the grand opening of Dave & Buster's Orland Park location while eager video gamers and Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce members cheer. The ribbon cutting celebration took place in September. Dave & Buster's is located at 38 Orland Square Drive.

Orland Park Invests in Nikon Nivo M Series to Re-Create Crime ScenesCENES

by Jan Glaz

A Nikon Nivo M Series Total Station purchase met with full board approval on October 1st at the Village of Orland Park Board of Trustees Meeting. It was reported that the advanced digital measuring equipment and software will be used for accident reconstruction and crime scene investigation. This product best fit the needs of the city and also includes a measuring device, a tripod, prism pole, batteries, case, charger and cables in the total price and will allow the city's traffic unit members the most accurate measurements and diagrams to be utilized for purposes of investigation and prosecution. O'Hern Traffic Consultants Inc. in Tinley Park was the lowest quote at $8,648.00, which included all requested accessories and the Crash Zone software.

An Ordinance regarding the Tilted Kilt Pub & Eatery passed without objections. The ordinance requires a special use amendment for elevation changes and a site plan with a modification to reduce the north side yard setback for Tilted Kilt Pub and Eatery, located at 16255 S. La Grange Road. The special use amendment allows for construction of a 1,505 square foot building addition for the maintenance and operation of a 6,655 square foot (total) restaurant facility on a 1.5 acre site and is subject to conditions as stated in the ordinance.

In Conclusion: Mayor Daniel J McLaughlin declared the month of October 2012 as Abuse Awareness Month. The Mayor announced that the abuse of prescription medications is a growing public health concern and everyday more than 2,500 teenager's abuse prescription medications more than illegal street drugs. Misuse of these medications can lead to addiction, overdose and even death. Officials at the Federal, State, and Local levels call attention to this problem to help families curb the abuse of prescription medications.

Tinley Park First in Nation as Receipiant of Fire Prevention Accrediation

by Jan Glaz

The Tinley Park Fire Prevention Bureau became the first local municipal bureau in the nation to achieve the honor of fire prevention and life safety department accreditation from the (IAS) International Accreditation Service. On October 2nd at the Tinley Park Board of Trustees Meeting a presentation by the Tinley Park Fire Prevention Bureau detailed the rigorous fire prevention practices submitted over the past year to achieve the professions highest standards as recipient of the (IAS) International Accreditation. The IAS evaluation team performed a comprehensive review of the Bureau regarding occupancy inspections, plan review and construction inspections, fire investigations and public education. Evaluation team leader and former California State Fire Marshal Ron Coleman reported to the IAS about the bureau's efforts, "I have never seen one that is as well structured and executed as this one is, and therefore recommend granting accreditation. Mayor Ed Zabrocki commented, "Receiving accreditation confirms that our Fire Prevention Bureau performs its duties at the highest levels for the protection of our residents and our businesses."

Approved Expenditures for the 80th Avenue Metra Station: To he paid from the Surtax Capital Fund to Engineering Consulting Services, Inc. an amount of $9,422.10; to Legat Architects $3,932.32; to Project Management Advisors, Inc. $11,310.19 and to Zcorp Services the amount of $534,975.00.

Before the meeting adjourned Trustee Seaman recognized representatives of the Marine Corps League for their sponsorship of a bench at Veterans Plaza. The total commitment for a bench at the Plaza is a $5,000 donation. A bench will be placed at the Plaza in recognition of the Marine Corps League.

Oak Forest Bond Refunding Yields a Pay-Back Bonanza

by Jan Glaz

At the September 11th City of Oak Forest Board of Trustees Meeting Finance Director Colleen Julian had estimated a $300,000 pay back due the city after all costs through the refunding or refinancing of bonds Issued in 2004, the savings related to the drop in interest rates. On October 9th at the Board of Trustees Meeting, Colleen announced a higher pay back, approximately $700,000, returning to the city after all costs. "My thought is that we had taken quite a few hits already because of the bad economy: this is a pay back," said Julian.

The city council agreed and approved an ordinance providing for the issuance of General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2012, in an amount not to exceed 10 million dollars, the ordinance allows the city's underwriters to go out and sell bonds to the market at the beginning of November. At a future meeting the city council will decide between accepting the approximate $700,000 in a lump sum or in payments over a 12 year period. Alderman Ensing and Simon favored term payouts and Julian leaned towards the lump sum whereas the cash could be used for items they have not been able to levy for the last couple of years. Also, the city could deposit it in their reserves or earmark it in a project fund.

Before adjournment: Catherine M. O'Connor, C.P.A., was voted in to continue as the City's payroll service provider at a proposed annual fee of $19,741.00, plus an hourly fee of $58.66, when required and Mayor Kuspa voiced excitement when the board approved a contract in the amount of $55,385.00 with Lorusso Cement Contractors, Inc., located in West Chicago. The contract provides for the installation of continuous sidewalks on the west side of Central Avenue between James Drive and Independence Drive and also includes a section of sidewalk adjacent to the Jewel property, close to 159th Street. Kuspa explained the city had been working for a long time to complete this sidewalk project.

Village of Orland Park to Hold Annual Fall Clean Up Campaign

Autumn weather in Orland Park brings changing leaves, a drop in the temperature and the village's annual Fall Clean Up Campaign.

"The village has held its semi-annual clean up campaigns for several years," said Orland Park Mayor Dan McLaughlin. " Orland Park sponsors this in cooperation with Waste Management, giving residents have free access to dumpsters at the Public Works facility," the mayor explained.

Orland Park will hold its annual fall clean up October 25 through October 27. During the fall clean up, residents are invited to dispose of normal household refuse, as well as tires, in dumpsters placed at Public Works, 15655 South Ravinia Avenue . Hazardous materials, construction debris, clothing, and electronics are not accepted. All items must be placed inside of the dumpsters.

Access to the dumpsters will be available on Thursday, October 25 and Friday, October 26 from 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and on Saturday, October 27 from 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Further information is available by calling the village's Public Works Department at 708/403-6350.

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SOUTH SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 13 | Number 20 | October 16, 2012

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

Energy Broker Address Worth Village Board

by Matt Mayer

Robert Streit, an energy broker and co-owner along with Dennis Brennan of Illinois Energy Aggregation (IEA), gave a presentation at the Oct. 2 Worth Board of Trustees meeting regarding a referendum which will appear on the Nov. 6 election ballot to approve an electric aggregation agreement, which will allow the village to hire an energy broker. Streit said if the village hires IEA, they would seek bids from approximately 20 independent electricity suppliers and propose a contract for the village.

In other surrounding municipalities that hired IEA, residents saved $1.5 million; and small business owners saved $2.3 million per year. Residents have saved between 40 to 50 percent on their electric bills by switching from ComEd to another supplier, said Streit. If the referendum is approved IEA believes it can get a fixed electricity rate between four and five cents per kilowatt hour as compared to ComEds current cost of 8.3 cents per kilowatt hour.

Other highlights: The board approved the Halloween Trick or Treat hours from 3 to 7 p.m on October 31 as well as a request from the Worth Lions Club for their annual Christmas tree lot from November 10 to December 31.

Palos Hills Residents May Now Check Their Electric Savings

by Matt Mayer

Mayor Jerry Bennett announced at a recent city council meeting that Northern Illinois Municipal Electric Collaborative (IMEC) informed all the municipalities in which they serve that with the new billing that has come out, they have a website www.mycomedbill.com, residents can register their address and they will be able see the savings on their electric bill with the new aggregation.

A discussion regarding an accident of a runaway horse that was killed by a car was prompted by a concern regarding speed from the Horsemen's Association. Ald Kleefisch said the city has used a new electronic monitoring system to monitor the speed on Keane Avenue. According to the new device, people were driving under the posted speed limit. The purpose was to see if we could lower the speed limit. In the past when the state performs this type of surveying, if they determine motorists are traveling at a lower than post speed limit, the state actually wants to increase the limit, not lower it.'

The state has a section of Kean Ave by the horse trail that is 35 mph and then into the unincorporated area which is 45 mph. We have approached the state and they will not lower a speed limit of 35 mph on a state route, said Bennett. We will again check the signage for crossing of horses and also markings on streets so people can at least physically see that this is a marked trail going across the road, said Bennett.

Ald. Williams read a letter commending the efforts of Dave Weakley Commissioner of Public Works. The resident stated in the letter that a limb from his tree cracked and was resting on the power line. He said he called ComEd and decided to call Williams four days later and Weakley promptly came out to assess the matter and called ComED. After a couple of days the matter was not resolved -five days later a crew from ComEd finally came and resolved the matter and a supervisor came out and apologized for the delay. The resident stated that he believes with out the intervention of Weakley the matter would still be unresolved.

The Chicago Ridge Public Library

Pub Trivia at Jack Desmonds on Wednesday, October 24th from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. Back by popular demand, library sponsored pub trivia makes a repeat appearance at Jack Desmond's Irish Pub. Teams will compete for a special grand prize at the end of the evening. Jack Desmond's is located at 10339 Ridgeland Avenue. Must to 21+ to attend.

Ghost Hunters on Thursday, October 25th at 7:00 p.m. The Illinois Ghost Society is a paranormal research institute that collects evidence of paranormal activity. They will display the equipment used by ghost hunters and teach us some ghost hunting terminology. Visit the group's website for more information: www.illinoisghostsociety.com. Call the library at 423-7753 to reserve a seat to this free program.

Demonstrating Career Cruising on Thursday, October 18th at 6:30 p.m. Career Cruising an easy-to-use career planning database that can be accessed at the library or through our website. The program includes career information, aptitude quizzes, job postings and a resume builder tool. Learn how this database can help you find the right career and employment. This is a free program; call the library at 423-7753 if you have any questions.

The Chicago Ridge Public Library is located at 10400 S. Oxford.

Chicago Ridge Park District

Halloween at the Park, Sunday, October 28, from 9:00 am to 11:00 am

Halloween House Decorating Contest

This is an open invitation to all ghosts, ghouls and goblins. We are looking for the ultimate haunted homestead! To register your spine-chilling house, call the Park District at 708-636-4900 before October 25. Judging will take place on Friday, October 26.

Games and Prizes

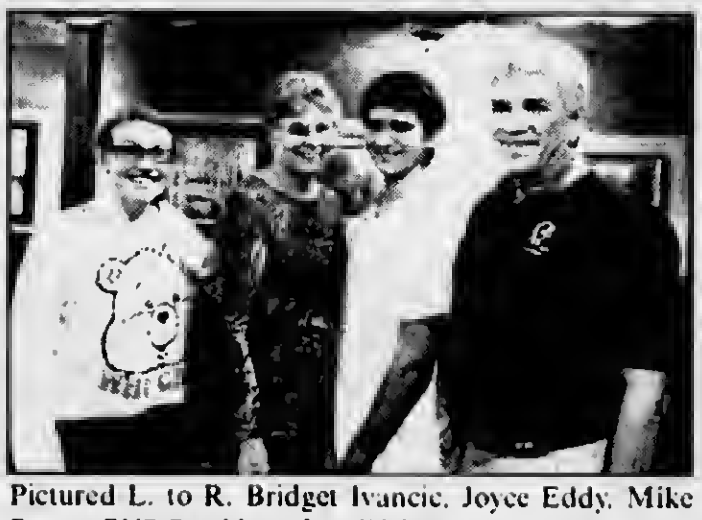
Stop and enjoy some of the games we'll be playing! Games like a mummy wrap and relay races will be some of the fun. All contestants get a gift for participating. 9:00am-11:00am.

Halloween Costume Contest

Attention all community members! The Chicago Ridge Park District is inviting all participants with costumes to enter and win a prize! Costumes will be judged on various criteria. Costume judging begins promptly at 10:00am. All Ages (age groups will be indicated when you arrive at Freedom Park)

Turkey Trot

This annual event will begin and end at the Palos Park Recreation Center, 8901 West 123rd Street on Saturday, November 3, 1 mile at 8:00 am, 5K at 9:00 am. The certified course is through scenic areas of the Village with rolling terrain. Runners and walkers are encouraged to participate. Again this year, we will offer a 5K run and a 1-mile run for children. Trophies will be awarded three deep in each age division. T-shirts will be distributed to the first 100 participants. Call the Recreation Department at 708-671-3760 or visit there website www.palospark.org/events.htm



Pictured L. to R. Bridget Ivancic, Joyce Eddy, Mike Peretz, PVP President, Len Weislo

Scholarship Winners

The Palos Village Players have announced the winners of their annual Speech and Dramatic Arts scholarships that are awarded to deserving area high school students.

The scholarships can be used at the university summer speech workshop of their choice. The winners are then invited to present a sample of their work at the Player's September meeting. This year there were two students who received the scholarships. The first is Bridget Ivancic who lives in Hickory Hills and is a senior at Stagg High School. She attended the Speech Camp at Bradley University. The second winner was Mike Pretz, an Alsip resident who is a junior at Shepard High School. He attended a Speech and Forensics Camp at Illinois State University. Looking ahead to next year the Players encourage any area high school students involved with speech or dramatics to apply for next years' scholarships through their respective schools. Although they will not become available until at least February, they can make inquiries now by contacting the PVP scholarship chairman, Joyce Eddy at 708-448-9235 or by e-mailing jedagreen@att.net.

Village View

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B-MAC EDITION

Volume 6 | Number 20 | October 16, 2012

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Alsip Heritage Properties Boast Low Rent: High Amenities

by Jan Glaz

Mayor Patrick Kitching challenged Trustee Ryan concerning the Village Properties know as Heritage I and Heritage II at the Board of Trustees Meeting on October 1st. The Village Properties are currently under renovation. the scheduled improvements include replacement of hallway carpeting; tile floors in foyers and laundry areas: repair of draining issues: new boilers: plus new laundry equipment. Ryan concluded his Heritage Properties report with a request to consider raising rents. As of now, for a two bedroom apartment the rent is $805.00 per month; a one bedroom $715.00 per month. which matures every February. Ryan favored a $5.00 increase starting April 2013. Mayor Kitching abruptly questioned Trustee Ryan. "Have you reviewed the rent comparison study... have you noticed that our Heritage Apartments are cheaper than any apartment complexes around and that we have more amenities: swimming pools. elevators. 24 hour maintenance service?" Further, said the Mayor. we paid off two major bonds on the Heritage complexes so we can begin the replacement program. "I don't see at this point why we would need any rent increases."

In behalf of the Fire Department. Trustee Dalzell initiated a motion to accept a waiver of bid requirements and approve a Conditional Sale Agreement and Financing with Stryker Finance for acquisition of two Power Load Cot Fastening Systems at a total cost $40,462.00.

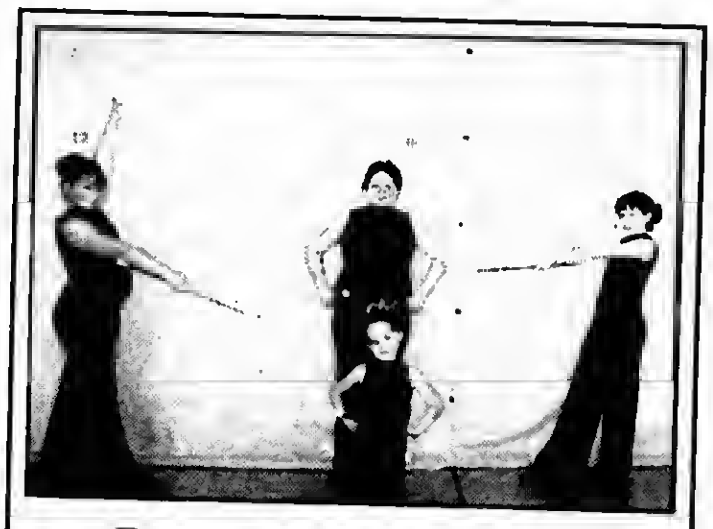
Veto Override: Under unfinished business a motion was made and accepted by the Board of Trustees to reconsider the adoption of An Ordinance Establishing Compensation and Rate of Pay for Elected Officials of the Village of Alsip and to override Mayor Kitching's Veto of the ordinance at the meeting held on September 17th. Approval will allow for a reduction of the Mayor and City Clerks salary and opens the door to hire a village administrator, thus changing Alsip's form of government. With no further business to attend, the meeting adjourned.

Blue Island Arts Alliance Hosts "Paranormal Night"

The Blue Island Arts Alliance. dedicated to enlivening cultural and educational events in the City of Blue Island. will host "Paranormal Night" on Saturday. October 27 to feature findings of spiritual activity in two local homes.

"This is just in time for the season," said Becky Denny. Blue Island Arts Alliance board president. "We are partnering with our friends. the Paranormal Guys. who will discuss their investigation of two local houses that have reported spiritual activities. They will also share movie footage of other hauntings they have studied. And, there will be mood-setting music by Lauren Duffy."

"Paranormal Night" will be held from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. on Saturday. October 27 at the East Annex. 2434 Vermont Street in Blue Island. Tickets are $10 each, and are available in advance at CARR Home-Garden-Holiday. 2357 York Street, Blue Island. Tickets will also be on sale at the door.



Bear-ettes Pom Pons

The award winning Bear-ettes Pom Pons of Midlothian will begin their 2012 - 2013 Pom Pon/ dance season on November 5th, 2012.

Classes for ages 5 and up will run 7:00 to 8:00 pm each Monday at the Midlothian Park District.

The organization is a non-for-profit organization incorporated in Illinois, and has held classes in the South Suburbs for over 13 years.

Visit http://hearettespoms.webs.com/ Registration is taken only by calling the following number: Elaine 630-324-6421.

New Businesses are on the Rise in Crestwood

by Jan Glaz

Two Special Use Ordinances received full approval at the Crestwood Board of Trustees Meeting held on October 4th: An automotive accessories sales and service company for Advanced Dealer Services to be located at 4708-4710 West 137th Street and an oil change and lubrication company D&C Express Lube LLC/DBA Havoline Express Lube to be located at 14200 S. Cicero Avenue. "It's nice to see we have a lot of new businesses moving into town. every week we have more and more coming in." said Mayor Robert Stranczek.

At the puhlic portion of the meeting a homeowner informed the board of trustees that the Forest Preserve District was issuing citations to homeowners for mowing the grass located on preserve property behind their homes. Residents attended a hearing at the offices of the Forest Preserve District and were told that everyone would receive citations as it is illegal to mow or build on any forest preserve land. Mayor Stranczek replied that the village is working on an agreement whereas the village will be allowed to cut the grass because wild grass is a safety hazard as it attracts the deer population, raecoons, possums, and skunks. Regarding the Forest Preserve District, the Mayor warned citizens who might have structures on preserve land, "Very popular in the unincorporated areas, they're taking aerial photographs and finding that people are putting up garages and swimming pools without permits and they are telling them to take them down."

Noteworthy: Ultra Foods, the new groeery store at 134th and Cicero in Crestwood reported it is teamiug up with St. Christopher School for a fundraiser to assist the school. Ultra Foods is offering to give 5% to the school program from now through January 27th, 2013 and all shoppers have to do is save their cash register receipts and turn them into the parish office at 4130 W. 147th Street, for more information call 708-385-8776.

Why Major Business Chains Did Not Nest in Midlothian

by Jan Glaz

The problems that arise when major businesses show interest locating in the city of Midlothian came under discussion at the Village of Midlothian Board Meeting on October 10th. Mayor Stephens was quick to sight tough competition, not only from neighboring communities, hut from banks. Stephens affirmed that city officials had talked to Meijer, but Meijer decided to go to Orland Park and locate in an already built building that was in foreclosure, enabling them to purchase it at ten or twenty cents on the dollar. And, Ultra Foods opened in Crestwood, under even better circumstances. Stephens brought attention to the sprawling piece of valuahle real estate located at 147th and Cicero. "We're not sitting around tooling our thumbs, Village Administrator James Lang met with a number of national operations interested in Midlothian: There is progress being made." By the end of the year, promised the mayor, we will have solid action in our race to develop.

A Luminaria Ceremony occurs in Midlothian every year and before the meeting adjourned permission was granted by the Board of Trustees to use allotment of free advertising with the bus shelter company for advertising the 30th Annual Luminaria Project and to sell Luminaria kits on the St. Christopher's parking lot, 147th Street and Karlov Avenue, on December 8th and 15th, December 9th and 16th, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Luminaria kits are most often composed of seven paper bags, seven large candles and sand. They are to be lit outside area homes, civic buildings and churches. The city council voted to allow a no-fee permit to put out portable Luminaria signs related to the event. Appointment of Charlie Bostrom. Ted Engler and Chuck Enk to the Zoning board also met with approval.

Pristine water and white sand can be seen in Alabama

by Annette Dixon

After living in Alabania for only a year and visiting every major city, I surely didn't know about the beauty on the Gulf Shores.

Recently, while in Gulf Shores and Orange Beach, Alabama, I was surprised to see such an expanded area devoted to nature and wildlife refuge, along with A Little Zoo That Could.

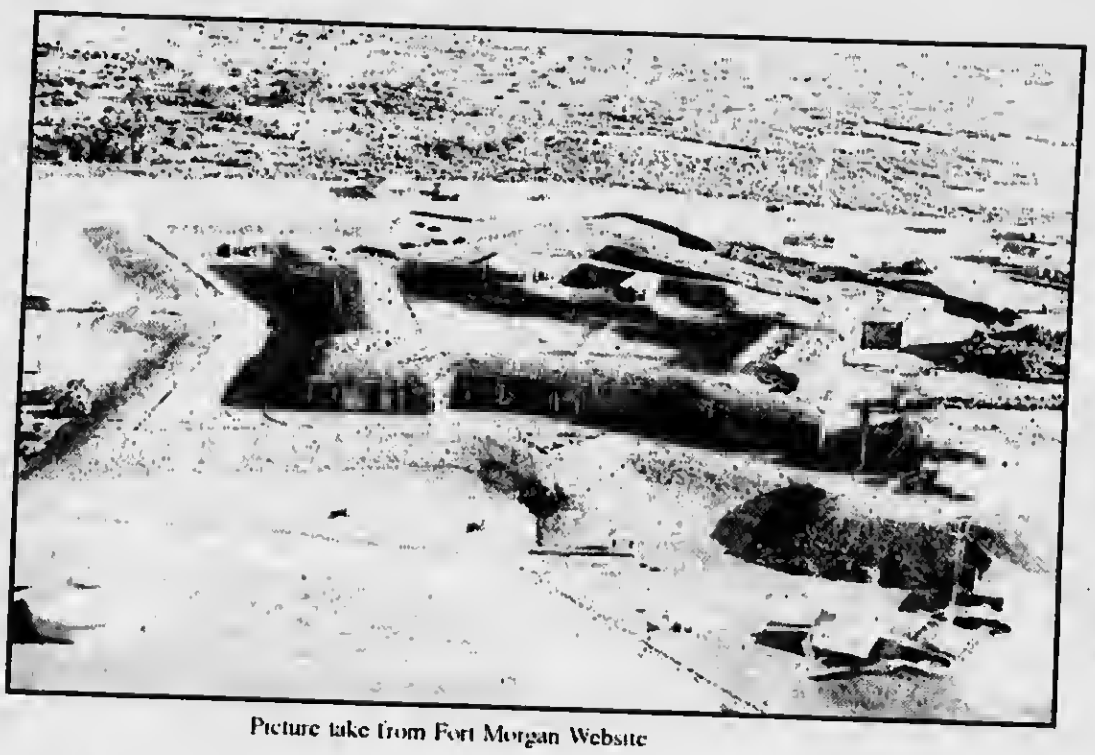
Meyer Realty has property located right on the beach. We stayed in the Enclave Condos, which gave us an opportunity to see the gulf and hear the waves and even enjoy a pool on the beach, or the beach itself.

The Orange Beach and Gulf Shore Tourism has much to offer beside sitting on the beach. Whoever thought Fort Morgan, a historical Museum and Fort would have the history equivalent to the five colonies.

Mike Bailey, senior historian, explained how the Spanish used Fort Morgan in the 1500's, then the fort was rebuilt in 1814 as protection against Native Americans. He gave an hour tour showing us the top view of where the once battled Confederate and Union Naval Forces fought for control of the harbor entrance. Surprisingly, the original railroad tracks and round about are still there. The bricks holding up the fort, and the alcoves which held the supplies and officers quarters, are original bricks.

After celebrating a 200 year anniversary of the demolished Fort Dearborn in Chicago just recently, it was a pleasure seeing an intact Fort Morgan in Alabama.

History is not the only advantage in vacationing on the white sands of the Gulf, but also viewing God's little creatures on the Hugh S. Branyon Back Country Trail in Gulf State Park. Here you can rent a bike or walk the trails and still see, flora, wild grass, animals, insects, marshes,



Picture take from Fort Morgan Website

secondary dunes, mounds, swamps and creeks. You might even see a large alligator or baby one.

Even though Illinois is part of the 15% of visitors visiting Alabama each year, we are going to increase that number for we haven't discovered the beauty of Gulf Shoreline or the sincerity of the Alabama people wanting to make us feel comfortable and at home.

If one day was not enough to enjoy the free nature walk, you can continue and experience Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge and take a 1 mile or more nature stroll. It has been designated as one of Alahama's Ten Natural Wonders. For more information contact Kim Chapman@kchapman @gulfshores.com or 1800-745-SAND. She will be able to give you more details on what to see and the best way to view this beautiful area.

Marine life is also plentiful. You can get an informative nature cruise with Sailaway Charters. Skip Beebe, owner and operator will take you on a travel through estuaries and backwaters of Longs Bayou and Wolf Bay. He will explain oystering techniques, crabbing and shrimping. You will see wildlife such as pelicans, cormorants, great blue herons and even dophins. You can also go aboard a larger vessel and cruise out on the back bays of the Alabama Gulf Coast to watch the Dolphins play.

If all of this is making you too hungry, you can try lunch at King Neptune's Restaurant which is across the street from the zoo in Gulf Shores. Monday through Friday, only from 11:00 am. until 2:00 pm you can order their specials such as Southern Fried Chicken Livers with Caribbean Rice Pilaf and Mango Jalopeno Chutney or Honey Fried Chicken Tenders. Vegetable Plate with a choice of four vegetables such as: Seasoned Green Beans, Cornmeal Fried Cut Okra, Seasoned Large Lima Beans, Buttered Baby Yellow Squash. Their entrees are served with 2 vegetables, bread, beverage and dessert. The price starts at $4.95 to $15.00 and only holds 65 people, so the summers are packed and there are waiting line everywhere. King Neptune's Seafood Restaurant has an extensive menu for daily fresh seafood and you can have orders to go.

Al uses Bon Secour Fisheries, which is now 100 years old and the largest Fishery in Alabama. Al was proud to mention that there are four generations of Military within the family. His son served three tours in Iraq.

He also mentioned that they use FFE Trucking which is in Bridgeview, IL and the largest Frozen Food Transport Company.

Aquila Sea Food has the World's largest company for Shrimp (Alabama Reds). It is difficult to mention the extensive list of Entrees but I will say you get plenty good, fresh, tasty food for your dollars.

Al's special dessert is the Fried Cheese cake, it's New York Style cheesecake rolled in cornflake crumbs, fried crisp and topped with toasted pecans in the praline sauce. The restaurant's capacity is 65 people. This restaurant has been around since 1993 and has the respect of the towns people. The fisherman were stating that they were getting less shrimp when they went out for their daily catch. Either the ecosystem is down or the larger fish are eating all the shrimp.

We also visited The Little Zoo that Could which is organized, concise, neat and appears to have every animal except the large ones. There just isn't enough room for Elephants and Giraffes.

During the Hurricane Isaac in 2004, the zoo had successfully moved all the animals into crates and brought them to a new high ground.

Chuckie, the 80 year old alligator found his own hideout and was the only animal missing. The television did a special report because he was missing for nine days. The townspeople even thought he was eating their dogs in the community. That wasn't so, because when the waters subsided, Chuckie was in his own habitat. He became so popular that Animal Planet did a complete story on him and the Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo. Chuckie is and still at the Zoo and of course very famous with the visitors.

The Zoo is opened daily from 9 am until 4 pm. The zoo sits just blocks from the beach and is home to more than 500 animals.

Something extraordinary is about to happen, a philanthropic couple from the Gulf Shores donated a 42 acre tract which will be completely "Green" and self sustainable. The state of the art facility will be

What's happening in Chicago

Boni Vino Ristorante and Pizzeria has the most delicious food. This hidden little restaurant reminds me of the old Taylor street restaurants. Visit them on www.bonivinos.com or place of business at 111 West Van Buren down from the Orange line at LaSalle and Van Buran. Recently I went to a Surprise Party for Johnny. Mark Nassar produces and directs little skits about Johnny Boy's Graduation and Coming out parties. Really a great idea! The place was at full capacity and everyone of all ages were enjoying themselves. Several people were from out of town. The food was better than the other places that offer this type of entertainment. There were more singers, which I loved, so I will give Boni Vino 4 stars for food and entertainment. www.JohnnyBoysGraduation.com

White Way Sign Company, based in Mount Prospect, Illinois, was founded in 1923 by Thomas F. Flannery, Sr. Since that date, the Flannery family has owned and operated White Way, and they are now in their fourth generation of family ownership and management. For 89 years White Way Sign has serviced many businesses including Essex Inn.

Essex Inn, Your Key to the City have their EssexInn sign in huge pink neon lights in observation of the Month of October being Breast Cancer Awareness month. This reminder will hopefully inspire those who have not had their check up, and will do so.

Recently my daughter was in town for a business meeting and we were driving north on Lake Shore Drive. I could see the pink neon lights and pointed it out for her to see. She thought it was great but because she was at another hotel, she mentioned the Hancock having the pink lights. Of course I had to mention again how great this looked and then finally I got the remark. Yea it sure is big.

Thanks to Mary K Twomey, Director of Sales and Marketing for coming up with such a great idea and Kudos to the General Manager for accepting the idea and White Way Sign Company for making this beautiful sign.

In conjunction with this month's awareness of breast cancer, there are many organizations, you can contribute but, EssexInn has a discounted weekend package, where they will match or contribute to the Silver Lining Foundation. Evelyn Goldberg Center offers quality of life services and programs for cancer resource information and treatment options. This organization helps those who are under insured or not insured. Call today to see if you qualify for free services at 312-345-1322 or 1-877-924-1126 or visit www.asilverliningfoundation.org

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Alabama's Gulf Shore number 1 tourist attraction as well as a place the community will frequent. This new project is happening already. By next summer "The Amazing Green Zoo Project, will be in place on the 42 acres." To learn more about The Amazing Green Zoo Project visit vvnew.com.

At present time The Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo is tucked away just blocks from the beach and is home to more than 500 animals including lions, tigers, bears, monkeys, macaws and more. There's also a petting zoo, reptile house, aviary, and seasonal animal encounters and special events.

Pictured left to right are Jim White; former Center Director, Judge Joyce Marie Murphy Gorman and Peggy Goddard.

Gorman at the Cym Center

Peggy Goddard has had thousands of children graduate from her "house" in the past thirty-two years. Goddard is the Director of the Catholic Youth Ministry Center at Morgan Park High School in Chicago. The "Blue House" is a not-for-profit organization that provides a safe place for students after school hours. Located across from the high school, the "Blue House" is an old Victorian-style home which was turned into youth center in 1978. The Center has a learning room with four computers, two social rooms, a basement for games and a kitchen which is a popular spot for homework.

Center alums include a playwright, social workers, musicians, an international financier, community activists and a judge. "We are thankful for community support and do our best to guide youth into being good neighbors and assets to the community," said Goddard.

Goddard presented Judge Joyce Marie Murphy Gorman of the Circuit Court of Cook County as a speaker in a series: Where are They Now and Where Can You Be? Gorman, a regular at the Center while a student from 1978-1982, was tickled to learn that the students think of the 70's as 'olden days.' "But some things never change—concerns about peer pressure, college, and the future remain the same," said Gorman. Gorman chatted with the students on career choices, the perils of credit card use and driving safety.

The Center's format of 'hanging out' time combined with structured programs on leadership and cooperation are the key to its success observed Jim White, Director of the Center in 1980. "Having the Center in an actual house models a positive home environment and it's also practical because what is taught in one room can be applied in the next, especially when it comes to respect and sharing," said White.

With thirty-two years of successes stories, Goddard is quick to give credit to "the young people themselves and the generous people who support the Center," clearly showing that Goddard is what makes the Blue House a home.

Peggy Goddard mentioned that Judge Joyce Marie Murphy Gorman is an accomplished guitar and accordion player and prestigious alumni.

Oak Lawn Park District's Annual Spookview Event

The Oak Lawn Park District's Annual Spookview Event is lurking right around the corner! Join in all the festivities geared for children ages 2 – 8 on Saturday, October 20th, from 1:00-5:00pm, at the Oak View Center located at 4625 W. 110th St.

Children may come dressed in costume and participate in the parade at 1:00pm. SKATES, the Chicago Wolves Hockey team mascot, will lead the parade! Please meet in the main lobby.

After the parade, the fun will continue with spooky activities that include a photo station; Bingo; Spookywalk; cookie decorating; games; a train ride; bounce houses; Dance performances at 2:30pm and 3:30pm from our very own IndepenDance Team and more!

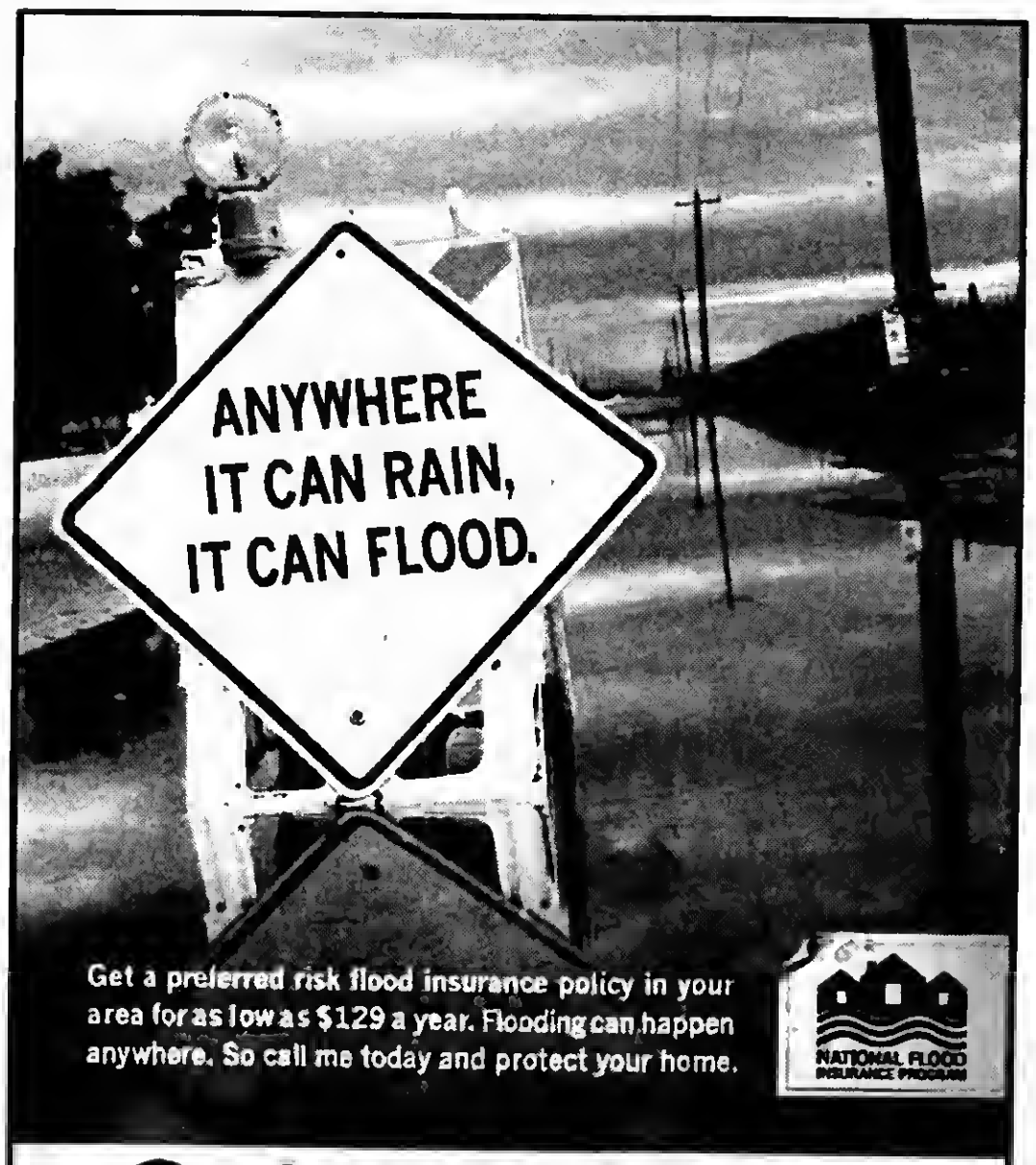
Purchase a $10 wristband for all activities (some activity restrictions may apply with wristband). Concessions will be available with cash only.

New this year is a food drive. Help support a local food pantry by bringing a non-perishable food item with you and receive a raffle ticket for a chance to win a Home Depot gift card (One raffle ticket per family).

Children should bring their own trick-or-treat containers to hold prizes/treats. Parking is available in the West lot, off of Kilpatrick, or on Kilpatrick and 110th St.

Want to volunteer at Spookview? Individuals must be 12 years of age or older. For more volunteering information, please contact Chris Tiesch at 708-857-2200 by Monday, October 15th.

For more information on Spookview, please contact 708-857-2200.



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HIGH SCHOOL
An Augustinian College Prep School Since 1905

Tinley Park-Park District

Classes and Events for October 18-24

Classes are not guaranteed to run. If you would like more information or to speak to someone about a specific class or event, please contact Matt Libs, Marketing Manager, at (708)342-4254.

Thursday, October 18

Pumpkin Creations: Let's decorate pumpkins together! Children ages 5-12 can participate in pumpkin carving and fun activities from 4 to 5:15 p.m. at the Tony Bettenhausen Recreation Center. $15 for residents and $20 for non-residents. Pumpkins and materials are included, but please bring your own pumpkin carving knife to class. Register at the Rec Center prior to the class as space is limited.

College Planning Workshop: Is college looming right around the corner for your child, but you're stuck wondering about your financial plans? Attend a free college planning seminar from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Bettenhausen Recreation Center. Topics covered include career assessment, admissions, educational costs, financial aid and completing financial aid forms, award review and appeal, and more. Register before attending either at the Rec Center or online. Class is free for residents and only $5 for non-residents.

Thursday Game Night: Hey teens! Try your hand at Wii Family Game nights at The Pit Stop, located at the Bettenhausen Recreation Center. The competition starts at 7 p.m., and snacks will be provided. This event is for kids from 6th through 12th grade, and is free with a Rec Center membership.

Saturday, October 20

Halloween Happenings Open House: Be prepared for another haunted Halloween event at the Bettenhausen Recreation Center. Join us for this free community event full of spooky fun for kids 12 and under. Each participant receives a free Halloween bag, taffy apple and prizes. Event runs from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Registration is not necessary, just show up for the fun! Costumes are optional.

Looking ahead...

Monday, October 29

Line Dancing: Come dance with Dee! This fun class is for beginners as well as intermediate-level line dancers. Class meets Mondays from 11:05 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at the Bettenhausen Recreation Center. Class runs October 29 to November 12. $30 for residents and $39 for non-residents. This healthy, low-impact dance and exercise program is sure to be a hit!

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Be Grateful Raffle to Benefit Park Lawn

Tickets are on sale for Park Lawn's "Be Grateful" Raffle with the grand prize being $5,000 cash. The second prize is $1,500, third prize is $500.00. Only 555 tickets will be sold.

Park Lawn's "Be Grateful" tickets cost $50 each. Tickets and more information are available by calling 708-425-6867, or visit Park Lawn located at 10833 S. LaPorte in Oak Lawn.

Ticket purchasers are also eligible for the Bonus Raffle. For an additional $20.00, ticket buyers can participate in a split the pot, where 50% of the total will go towards the winner and 50% to Park Lawn. In years past, the split the pot amount was more than the second place winnings.

It's named the "Be Grateful" raffle because everyone at Park Lawn is beyond grateful for the support of the community in helping continue the mission to provide services that promote intdependence, choice and access to community living for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Park Lawn is asking why everyone is grateful. Some ticket purchasers have expressed that they are grateful for great friends, health of family, Park Lawn families, Park Lawn and all the staff that make Park Lawn possible, freedom and money to buy a raffle ticket.

The "Be Grateful" winners will be announced Thursday, November 15, at 12:00 PM. Winner need not be present. The drawing will take place at Park Lawn School, 10833 S. LaPorte in Oak Lawn.

Local non-profit organization Park Lawn Association provides residential and vocational support through a total of 12 facilities throughout the South Suburbs of Chicago for more than 450 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The SOUTHWEST SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Spins Fairy Tales with Music at its November 4th Concert

Peer Gynt Suite No. 1
Grieg's adaptation of the Norwegian fairy tale

Mother Goose Suite
Ravel's charming and delicate suite includes *Sleeping Beauty's Pavane*

Scheherazade
Rimsky-Korsakov helps Scheherazade spin tales of wonder for her life
Remus Badea soloist

Sunday, November 4, 2012, 4:00 p.m.

Trinity Christian College
6601 W. College Dr., Palos Heights

Adults $20-$25
Seniors $15-$20
Students $5
Children 12 and under free!

Purchase tickets at the door; by calling 708-802-0680; or online at www.southwestsymphony.com ... *Look for us on Facebook too!*

This concert is partially sponsored by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council ARTS

Palos Park Public Library

Play "Hooray for Halloween Bingo" at the Palos Park Public Library on Thursday, Oct. 25 at 4:30 p.m. Children five and ap are invited to play an hour of bingo and win Halloween treat prizes. The library is located at 12330 Forest Glen Blvd., Palos Park, IL. No registration is required. For more information call the library at 708-448-1530.

Pictured from left to right: Kathy Varanauski, Joe Varanauski and Cheryl Cherny, National Director of Sertoma International aka Sertoma.

Local Sertoman Recieves Honor

Joe Varanauski, of Oak Forest, was named "Regional Outstanding Sertoman of the Year" at the Great Lakes Regional Sertoma Convention held recently in Indianapolis. He was nominated by his local club, Action Sertoma, where he was also awarded the club's "Outstanding Sertoman of the Year" award.

Varanauski is deseribed in his nomination as a loyal, dedicated and enthusiastic Sertoman. He has been a member of Action Sertoma for 22 years during which time he served as a club board member in various positions. He has contrihuted to the growth of the organization personally recruiting more than 10 new members. He is also a leader in the amount of time volunteered for the club serving as the chair of the annual golf outing since its inception 12 years ago and leads the Publicity and Bereavement committees.

He supports the other area clubs by attending their fundraisers and events and is active in the Distriet PAC meetings. A strong believer in community service, Varanauski is also active in the men's club at St. Damian's Church in Oak Forest, has served as a Cubmaster for Boy Scouts, coached Little League and is a U.S. Army veteran. He is an active supporter of Sertoma Centre, Inc., based in Alsip, Ill., is a member of their Silent Partner giving society and has served for eight years as a member of the Sertoma Centre board of directors.

Sertoma Centre is a social service agency dedicated to empowering the lives of individuals with disabilities. Sertoma Centre offers programs and services for individuals with developmental disabilities and/or mental illness through 13 programs at three day facilities and 10 residential homes.

Action Sertoma is a not-for-profit club formed in 1967 to raise funds in support of those in the community that are less fortunate. Action Sertoma was one of three clubs instrumental in the founding of Sertoma Centre.

"I want to thank the members of both organizations for this prestigious honor as I am proud to be a Sertoman for the past 22 years," Varanauski said.

He and his wife Kathy have two sons and four grandchildren.

For more information regarding the Action Sertoma Club please visit www.actionsertoma.com. For more information regarding Sertoma Centre, to schedule a tour, volunteer, or to make a donation, please contact Amy Chmura, Director of Advancement and Communications, (708)730-6206 or achmura@sertomacentre.org, at Sertoma Centre, 4343 West 123rd Street, Alsip, IL 60803, www.sertomacentre.org.

Chicago's Haunt Detective Facts and Fiction Surrounding Chicago and Suburban Ghost Stories

Join former criminal investigator, local author and historian, Ray Johnson, as he talks about his recent book, Chicago's Haunt Detective and the Fact and Fiction surrounding famous Chicago ghost stories such as "Resurrection Mary" and "The Ghost Car of German Church Road" which is tied to the infamous unsolved 1956 murder of sisters, Barbara and Patricia Grimes. Ray will be signing copies of his book following the presentation.

This program will be held on Thursday, Octoher 25, 2012 at 6:30 P.M. At the Bridgeview Public Library, 7840 S. 79th Street, Bridgeveiw, IL.

Please register for this event, 708-458-2880.

Rep. Lipinski Announces 2012 Senior Citizens of the Year

U.S. Rep. Dan Lipinski (IL-3) today announced the winners of the 2012 Senior Citizen of the Year Award, honoring their dedication to volunteerism and civic involvement in the local communities that make up the Third Congressional District.

"These winners on a daily basis demonstrate the outstanding community spirit and commitment that exists in all or our communities," Rep. Lipinski said. "As congressman for the Third Congressional District, I have been privileged to meet many people who aetively seek to make their communities hetter places to live and work. I am honored to recognize these senior citizens who have selflessly donated their time and energy to causes and pursuits that benefit so many other people."

The 2012 Senior Citizen of the Year Award winners are: Carol A. Coleman, Indian Head Park; Lawrence Wyllie, New Lenox; Paul O. Weber, Chicago; Marge Weiner, Tinley Park; Gary Niehaus, Lockport; Janet Paulin, Forest Park; Harron Beene, Summit; Donald E. Cramer, Burhank; Carol Stefan, Palos Heights; Ruth Rodriguez, Berwyn; Dr. Robert J. Novak, Riverside; Delores Dupree, Chicago; Alma Marble, Cicero; Denny Conway, Chicago; Boh Orlow, Chicago; Roy A. Overhott, Brookfield; Patricia Cossin, Bridgeview; and Lorraine A. Kawalek, LaGrange Park.

The winners were nominated by their fellow constituents for their special involvement in the Third Congressional District. All of the winners and their guests will be recognized at an award ceremony Oct. 18 at 11 a.m. at the Park Place of Countryside hanquet hall, 6240 Joliet Road, Countryside.

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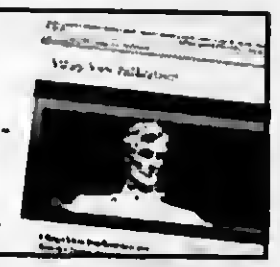

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Fourth Annual Blue Island Community Health Fair Scheduled

Promoting health and wellness among the Blue Island community is an important focus of the staff, students and administration of Veterans Memorial Middle School. On Monday, November 5 from 5 to 8 pm and Tuesday, November 6 from 9 am to noon, residents are invited to partake in the fourth annual Blue Island Community Health Fair to be held in the gymnasium at Veterans Memorial Middle School, located at 12320 S. Greenwood Avenue in Blue Island. Admission and all screenings are free. Health screenings, environmental health awareness, lead screenings, healthy food tastings as well as raffles and giveaways will all be a part of the festivities on tap at the fair. A number of vendors and community organizations will be participating including MetroSouth Medical Center, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and many more.

For additional information on the Blue Island Community Health Fair, please contact Raeann Zylman at 708-385-6630, ext. 7316 or email rzylman@district130.org.

Cook County School District 130 serves nearly 4,100 students at thirteen school sites. The district serves portions of the communities of: Alsip, Blue Island, Crestwood and Robbins.

"Helping Our Heroes"
Veterans Day Special

FREE 3-Hour housecleaning for Veterans
Offer extended to spouses & parents of veterans & active servicemen

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OPEN HOUSE I
Thursday, November 1 from 6 to 8 p.m.

OLYMPIC NIGHT
Thursday, November 15
Registration at 5:30 p.m.

To schedule a Viking Visit Day, please contact Mr. Joe Spano at (708) 458-6900, ext. 252

5556 West 77th Street, Burbank, IL 60459, PH: (708) 458-6900

Moraine Valley appoints vice president for Academic Affairs

Dr. Pamela Haney was approved as vice president of Academic Affairs at Moraine Valley Community College by the Board of Trustees at their regular September 19 meeting. She will assume her new position October 8.

"I am thrilled and excited to be selected as the chief academic officer," said Dr. Haney, currently dean of Science, Business and Computer Technology. She succeeds Dr. Sylvia Jenkins, who began her duties as college president on July 2.

"Dr. Haney will be a valued addition to the Executive Leadership Team. Her dedication to student success and her ability to work effectively with faculty and staff are evident in her level of involvement. I look forward to working with her, as we look for ways to improve the programs and services we offer our students, faculty, staff and community residents," Dr. Jenkins said.

"Student success will continue to be the primary focus," Dr. Haney said, "but we also want to extend our reach to the community and build more partnerships. We will do more to promote cutting edge technology that will contribute positively to curriculum and the educational success of our students as they prepare for advanced degrees and careers."

She has the breadth of experience to accomplish her goals. Dr. Haney also has served as dean of Liberal Arts and dean of Academic Services, where she was responsible for strategic planning reports for Academic Affairs, orientation for new deans, faculty recruitment, faculty evaluation, and adjunct faculty programs. She developed and implemented the Adjunct Advancement Program and Effective Teaching Strategies seminars and has been an adjunct faculty member. She also has worked with Student Development while at other institutions.

Dr. Haney additionally has worked at four-year schools, the latest from 2007 to 2009 as University Ombudsman for faculty and staff at the University of Nevada-Reno. She reported directly to the president and served as an independent and confidential resource for employees. Prior to her coming to Moraine Valley, Dr. Haney was a program administrator and an assistant professor of Communication Arts at Defiance College (Ohio). She served as co-director of the Honors Program, Communication Arts Internship Director and the Multicultural Programming Events Coordinator. She also taught as an assistant professor of Speech Communication at Norfolk State University (Virginia).

She holds a doctorate degree in Interpersonal Communication from Bowling Green State University (Ohio) and a master's degree in Speech Communication and a bachelor's degree in Mass Communication from Norfolk State University (Virginia).

Frankfort Square Park District
Children's Toy/Clothing Resale
Saturday, November 3
10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Dr. Julian Rogus School
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¼ mi. N. of St. Francis on 88th
(815) 469-3524

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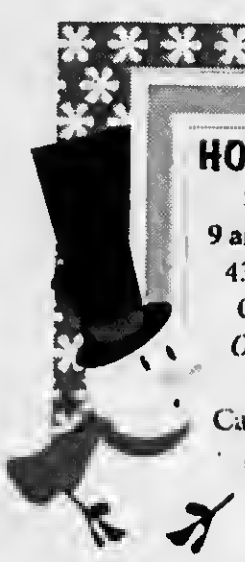

HOLIDAY CRAFT BAZAAR
Sunday, October 21, 2012
9 am to 2 pm at St. Pius X Church
4300 S. Oak Park Ave., Stickney
Chairlift for Handicap Access
Over 40 Crafters and Vendors
Bake Sale, Raffle, Café
Cash & Coupon Give-A-Ways
Clip & bring this ad and redeem for 1 Raffle Ticket or Stop in our Harvest Café
(featuring our famous Homemade Chili)

St. Gerald's Women's Club Fashion Show & Coat Drive

Join us for Lunch and Fashion Show on Saturday, October 20th, 12:30 pm at St. Gerald's Chapel Hall. Taylor Marie's will bring lovely high-quality clothing and accessories that will be available for purchase following the show sponsored by St. Gerald Women's Club. For information contact Sue at 708-425-6380 or the Parish Office at 708-422-0234.

Everyone is welcome.

Our annual coat drive is off and running. Our goal is to provide new winter coats to hundreds of children selected for this program from our client families. All sizes are needed, but there is always a special need for adult sizes in youthful styles for teens.

For more information contact Pat Hosman, Nu2u manager, at 708-633-9180 or phosman@togetherwecope.org.

Village of Evergreen Park News

Community Events

Saturday, October 20: Queen of Martyrs Trivia Night, 6pm. Sunday, October 21: EPCHS "Run To Stop Bullying" 2K Run. Registration at 8:15am. Sunday, October 28: "Freedom Isn't Free 5K Run" 11:00am at Brother Rice High School, honoring Cpl. Conner Lowry. Saturday, November 3: EPCHS Arts and Crafts Fair, 8am-2pm

SAVE YOUR BOX-TOPS for Southeast Elementary School! Box top labels from many participating products (see www.btfe.com) are worth a dime a piece for participating schools; the monies collected are used for education materials. Please visit www.btfe.com for more information!

Palos Township Health Service

Palos Township Health Service will host AGING IN 2012....what you need to know. Elder Life Professionals will discuss options that seniors have on October 30, from 9AM until 11AM at the Palos Township building, 10802 S. Roberts Road, Palos Hills. Light refreshments will be served. Call the Health Service at 708-598-2441 to reserve your spot.

St. Laurence High School

"Where Leadership Begins"

Presents

Tailgate Trivia Night

Saturday, November 3, 2012

St. Laurence High School • 5556 W. 77th St.

Burbank, Il 60459 (77th & Central Ave.)

708-458-6900 x411 • momsclub@stlaurence.com

Doors Open at 6:00pm Kickoff at 7:00pm

Game Plan:

Ten people to a table (Reserved under one name)

Cost $150.00 Prepaid

Bring your own food or order food from area restaurants

Beer, Wine, Mike's Hard Lemonade, pop and water will be sold

No outside liquor allowed

Raffle / Split the Pot

Please send table request along with payment to:

Attention St. Laurence Mothers' Club

Tables are sold on a first paid basis; no table will be held without payment

Must be 21 years old to attend and play

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Fall & Summer Adult Bowling Leagues

Burbank Park District's Annual Halloween Party

Saturday, October 27th
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Newcastle Park Recreation Center
FREE

Games - Prizes - Treats
Haunted House - Costume Contest

All children 12 years & younger are welcome

Children should dress in costume

Questions?
Call 599-2070
www.burbankparkdistrict.org

Picture (left to right): Daniel Blewitt '14, Hannah Lang '13, Laura Hilger '14, Kyle Fitzgerald '13, Kyliah Thompson '14, Cooper Packard '14
Front Row: Emerson Pavur '15

Marian Catholic High School Presents "Arsenic and Old Lace"

The Marian Catholic High School Fine Arts Department proudly presents "Arsenic and Old Lace" Friday, October 19, 2012 at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, October 20 at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, October 21 at 2:00 p.m., in the Monsignor Croarkin Auditorium on campus. Tickets are $5 for students and $8 for adults. Plenty of free parking is available in the Joe Orr Road parking lot.

Arsenic and Old Lace is about The Eccentric Brewster family and how they deal with the real world around them. The hysterical comedy deals, with murder, plot twists and turns, and an adventure leaving the audience wanting more and more.

The cast includes: Hannah Lang '13 as Abby Brewster, Blake Jeffries '14 as Rev. Dr. Harper, Cooper Packard '14 as Teddy Brewster, Doug Larcher '13 as Officer O'Hara, Kyliah Thompson '14 as Martha Brewster, Laura Hilger '14 as Elaine Harper, Kyle Fitzgerald '13 as Mortimer Brewster, Scott Mlcoch '13 as Mr. Hoskins, Ken Pilota Jr. '13 as Mr. Gibbs, Daniel Blewitt '14 as Jonathan Brewster, Emerson Pavur '15 as Dr. Einstein, Desiree McCray '14 as Captain Rooney, Vince Valbuena '16 as Mr. Spinalzo, Rebecca Hauser '15 as Mrs. Whitherspoon, Kenneth Pilota Jr. '13 and Scott Mlcoch '13 as Officer Voices and Student Director, Vickie Kennedy '15.

Tinley Park Public Library

Job Search Workshop Series – Resolving the Five Toughest Job Search Obstacles

The Tinley Park Public Library will host another Job Search Workshop Series –Resolving the Five Toughest Job Search Obstacles on Wednesday, October 21, 2012 from 3-5 pm. All attendees are encouraged to bring a list of their most difficult job search challenges and Greg David will provide action steps to help resolve them. Our Job Search Workshop Series will start again on January 16, 2013. Register in person, online or by phone beginning October 17. Phone 708.532.0160, x 3. The Tinley Park Public Library is located at 7851 Timber Drive. Our website is www.tplibrary.org.

E-Reader Classes

The Tinley Park Public Library will offer free ereader classes in November. These classes are designed to show you how to borrow books from Media on Demand, our ebook lending service. Registration for ereader classes begins Saturday, November 3, 2012 at 9:30 am. Class size is limited to eight so that we can provide hands-on assistance to each participant. Registration for all classes must be done in person at the Checkout Desk. If you own an ereader or mobile device with an ereader app, please bring it with you to class. Phone 708.532.0160, x 3. The Tinley Park Public Library is located at 7851 Timber Drive. Our website is www.tplibrary.org.

Laughing Yoga

The Tinley Park Public Library will host Laughing Yoga on Saturday, November 17, 2012 at 1 pm. Join us for a lighthearted way to practice yoga with plenty of laughs, as well as gentle, non-strenuous exercises and meditation. $3 fee payable at Circulation Desk. Register in person, online or by phone beginning October 20. Phone 708.532.0160, x 3. The Tinley Park Public Library is located at 7851 Timber Drive. Our website is www.tplibrary.org.

Holiday Madrigal Concert

The Tinley Park Public Library will host Holiday Madrigal Concert with the Lincoln-Way North High School Madrigals on Saturday, November 24, 2012 at 2 pm. Join us for a special musical performance by the LWNHS Madrigals complete with splendid period costumes. Register in person, online or by phone beginning October 27. Phone 708.532.0160, x 3. The Tinley Park Public Library is located at 7851 Timber Drive. Our website is www.tplibrary.org.

Designer , Decorating Tips for the Holidays

The Tinley Park Public Library will host Designer Decorating Tips for the Holidays on Monday, November 19, 2012 at 7 pm. Designer Julea Joseph will show how to add fresh and seasonal updates to your holiday home by using family heirlooms, buying a few great accessories, and designing a fabulous holiday tablescape. Register in person, online or by phone beginning October 22. Phone 708.532.0160, x 3. The Tinley Park Public Library is located at 7851 Timber Drive. Our website is www.tplibrary.org.

10th Annual Holiday Gift Faire

The Tinley Park Public Library will host its 10th Annual Holiday Gift Faire on Saturday, November 3, 2012 from 9 am – 4 pm. Special decorative items for the home, delicious food, candles, kitchen items, jewelry and much more will be available from new and favorite home party vendors including Pampered Chef, Scentsy, Velata, Life's Abundance and Lia Sophia. Phone 708.532.0160, x 3. The Tinley Park Public Library is located at 7851 Timber Drive. Our website is www.tplibrary.org.

Moraine Valley's third Annual Dialogue on Diversity open to all

As a core value on its campus, Moraine Valley Community College places a high priority on diversity. To that end, the college is hosting its Third Annual Community Dialogue on Promoting Diversity and Inclusion on Friday, October 19, from 7:30 a.m. to noon, in the Moraine Business and Conference Center, Building M, on campus, 9000 W. College Pkwy., Palos Hills. Breakfast will begin at 7:30 a.m., with the program following at 8 a.m. Community members are encouraged to attend this free event.

This year's theme is "The Diversity Challenge." Since the first dialogue in 2010, participants have focused on diversity and inclusion, and diversity and leadership. This year's challenge is to enhance the mindset of inclusive leaders and the participants' effectiveness at their own organizations.

The dialogue is an outlet for state government officials, mayors, school administrators, nonprofit personnel, religious leaders, community members, and Moraine Valley staff and students to build off the progress made at the community dialogues over the last two years and continue the conversation about creating opportunities to foster and advance diversity and inclusion throughout the 26 communities in the college's district and the region.

"Participants can share best practices, learn from their colleagues, develop a shared strategy, and basically commit to furthering efforts on diversity," said Charmaine Sevier, manager of diversity and employment at Moraine Valley. "We would really like to see a strong community presence this year. Residents are invited to come and share their thoughts on this important issue."

The program will include a keynote address by Doug Harris, president of Kaleidoscope, a training and development consulting group; a question and answer session; roundtable discussions to share best practices and develop supportive strategies around diversity; and a wrap-up and next steps planning session.

"My hope is that people from one community will learn about something people are doing in another municipality, and those people will in turn learn something from another area," Sevier said. "It's really about getting the community talking with each other about diversity issues and having resources to deal with different situations."

To reserve a seat at the event, call the college's Human Resources office at (708) 974-5704, or e-mail mvccdiversity@morainevalley.edu.

Energy Assistance is Available – Need Help Paying Heating Bills

Cook County Commissioner Joan Patricia Murphy is hosting an Energy & Information Fair Friday, November 16th 10am to 2p.m. at the Biela Center in Crestwood. Applications for LIHEAP (low income home energy assistance program) will be processed at the Energy Fair.

Federal funds are available to families that qualify. One time payments are made directly to Nicor and ComEd to provide financial support to households. The winter season is just around the corner and along with the cold comes higher energy bills. The application is fast and easy.

When applying you MUST bring: proof of gross income for the last 30 days. Original Social Security cards for all household members. Current Nicor and ComEd utility bills.

INCOME GUIDELINES – for LIHEAP

Family Size Gross Income for 30 days prior to application Date
1: $1,396
2: $1,891
3: $2,386
4: $2,881
5: $3,376
6: $3,871

Meet local representatives from Ceda, Nicor, and ComEd. Useful information will also be provided from area Social Service Organizations. Come find out what programs are available to help meet the needs of your family.

Don't miss Commissioner Murphy's Energy Fair on Friday, November 16th from 10a.m. to 2p.m. The event will be held at the BIELA Center located at 4545 Midlothian Turnpike in Crestwood.

For more information call 708-389-2125.

Photo by Michael Brosilow
Opal Demetria Staples in The Collective Theatre's production of HooDoo Love by Katori Hall, directed by Co-Founder Nelsan Ellis.

HooDoo Love playing at Athenaeum Theatre until October 21

by Annette Dixon

HooDoo Love is a not-to-be missed play with musicians, Leon Q. Allen, (Trumpet); Giles Corey, (Guitar); and Thomas Lowery, (Percussion). The music and singers do not override the production, but accentuates the performers. This production was given top reviews by both national newspaper critics in Chicago.

The outstanding entourage of backstage and cast, made this play one of this year's outstanding production, hopefully a Jeff Award. The entire cast features Toni Lynice Fountain (Candy Lady), LaRoyce Hawkins (Ace of Spades), Mark Smith (Jih) and Lynn Wactor (Toulou) with Sam Bailey (Rhonda), Mark Hood (Freddie), Opal Demetria Staples (Lillie Mae) and Greg Williams (Bug Eyed Jerry). The theme is a familiar story beginning in the 1930's and continuing into the blues era of the 50's in Chicago, invariably the best I have ever seen. As a southsider, I was proud to be able to review this Chicago Premier.

If you are not familiar with The Collective Theatre Group, they are six gifted thespians from the South Suburbs of Chicago. The director Nelsan Ellis came from Harvey, spent part of his childhood in Alabama, and then returned to Chicago's south suburbs where he attended high school.

The lives of six gifted thespians collided at Thornridge High School in Dolton, Illinois and together founded The Collective Theatre, a unique performance company whose mission is to showcase thought provoking imagery for audiences of diverse cultural and economic backgrounds through historical perspectives, explorative interpretations and experimental new works. The Cofounders of The Collective Theatre group are Francois Battiste, Veronda Carey, Le'Mil Eiland, Nelsan Ellis, Metra Gilliard and Jasond Jones.

The Director, Nelsan Ellis can currently be seen on the hit HBO vampire series True Blood, directed by Alan Ball. He was most recently seen on film in The Help for DreamWorks, based on the bestselling novel. Other recent credits include Disney's Secretariat opposite Diane Lane and John Malkovich. The Soloist opposite Robert Downey Jr., Jamie Foxx and Catherine Keener and The Express for Universal Pictures. He recently wrapped production on Gods Behaving Badly opposite Edie Falco, Christopher Walken and Sharon Stone, as well as The Reluctant Fundamentalist opposite Kate Hudson, Kiefer Sutherland and Liev Schreiber.

Athenaeum Theatre is located at 2936 N. Southport Avenue in Chicago and HooDoo Love continues until October 21, 2012.

Last call for HooDoo Love, curtain Times are Thursday & Friday at 7:30 pm; Saturday at 2:30 & 7:30 pm; Sunday at 2:30 pm.

Tickets are available online at www.athenaeumtheatre.org or by calling the Athenaeum Theatre Box Office at (773) 935-6875.

Information on The Collective Theatre, visit www.facebook.com/thecollectivetheatre or follow on Twitter @tctchicago.

Night over Erzinga

by Annette Dixon

Silk Road Rising is a production company emphasizing the intergration of ethnic groups and bringing the understanding to one another of their ethnic diversity.

Their unique exposure is through the medium of the theater and the various plays that have been produced and performed at Pierce Hall in the Historic Chicago Temple. It gives credence to the success of Jamil Khoury as an outstanding Artistic Director.

Night Over Erzinga is just that play which spans during the Ottoman Empire to New York City and three generations of an Armenian and Dominican family.

Adriana Sevahn Nichols' Night Over Erzinga explores how a man can lose everything but his heart, and how a grandmother can reach through time, unearth an untold story, and bring her children "home."From collective tragedy to personal triumph, ancestors reunite with the living in a breathtakingly beautiful journey toward making peace with the past and reclaiming one's heritage.

The play is approximately 2 hours and 30 minutes with one 10 minute intermission. Tickets are $40 for Regular Run (+ $3.50 per ticket processing. The days of the performances are Thurs. Fri., Sat., and Sun. matinee. For more information call 312-857-1234 x 201. All performances are held at Pierce Hall in The Historic Chicago Temple Building, 77 W Washington St, Chicago and will continue until November 11, 2012.

Take advantage of $6 parking at System Parking, 230 W Washington St (Washington & Franklin; 3 blocks west of the theatre). Discount coupon available at the box office.

Night Over Erzinga artistic team, includes playwright Adriana Sevahn Nichols, director Lisa Portes, artistic director Jamil Khoury, and actors Sandra Delgado, Diana Simonzadeh, Levi Holloway, and Nicolas Gamboa.

Rock Musical Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson

by Annette Dixon

BLOODY BLOODY ANDREW JACKSON with music and lyrics by Michael Friedman, book by Alex Timbers, directed by Scott Ferguson, music direction by James Morehead and choreography by Christopher Pazdernik, playing until November 10, 2012.

BLOODY BLOODY ANDREW JACKSON, is a rock musical which recreates and reinvents the life of "Old Hickory," from his humble beginnings to his days as our seventh Commander-in-Chief. This production is 100 minutes without intermission and does need a little tweaking for it lacks luster in certain parts.

"The show wags a very sharp tongue at American history," comments Bailiwick Chicago Artistic Director Lili-Anne Brown. "It comments upon how our leaders are chosen, what we want from them, and what we let them get away with, which is why we're doing this show now. While certain politicos and pundits rewrite history and present it to the uninformed as fact, we're presenting historical facts in a hilariously silly way. And with rock music," adds Brown.

Matthew Holzfeind (Andrew Jackson) is a superb actor who heightens our interest in this play. The musicians Matt Deitchman (Guitar 1/Trombone), James Morehead* (Piano), Patrick Rooney (Guitar 2), Cody Goose Siragusa (Bass) and Lindsay Williams (Drums) are worth hearing.

National Pastime Theater is located at 941 W. Lawrence Ave., 4th Floor, Chicago, and continue until Saturday, November 10, 2012. Tickets are $25 (Thursdays/Sundays), $30 (Fridays, Saturdays); $20 students & seniors (Thursdays & Sundays only, must show ID) Election Night: There will be a FREE performance on Election Night, Tuesday, November 6, at 9 pm must show proof that you voted.

Tickets are available at bailiwickchicago.com Groups of 8 or more email service@bailiwickchicago.comParking: $5 paid parking is at Weiss Hospital Parking Deck, 4650 N. Clarendon. Bring parking ticket to theater for validation and payment. Parking voucher is valid from 6 pm until 4 am on show days. Street parking is free near the theater and is often available.

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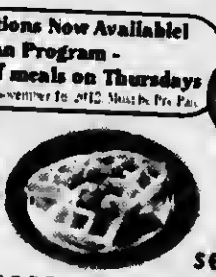

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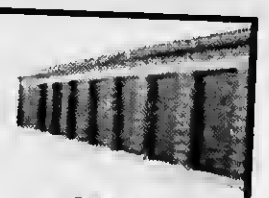

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American Legion Auxiliary October Meeting

The Evergreen Park American Legion Auxiliary, Post 854, will hold their monthly meeting on Monday, October 22, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. Chris Zartuche, President of the Auxiliary's 8th District will attend. The Auxiliary holds regularly scheduled meetings on the fourth Monday of the month at the American Legion Post 854, 9701 S. Kedzie Ave. in Evergreen Park. The Auxiliary is organized and committed to helping veterans and their families, active service men and women, and the community, as well as to promote patriotism. Call Dian Kinahan at 708-229-2129 for information about eligibility and joining the Auxiliary.

Crafters Corner

To advertise in Crafters Corner, or Crafters Wanted, call Linda for more information at 708-425-1910.

HOLIDAY CRAFT BAZAAR
Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
8426 W. 95 St.
Sat. Nov. 3, 2012
9:00 am to 3:00 pm
708-423-6378
Bake Sale - Raffles - Lunch

V.J. Andrew High School Music Parents presents...
26th Annual Fall Arts & Crafts Show
Saturday, November 3, 2012 &
Sunday, November 4, 2012 from 9:00am to 4:00pm
Over 175 participants that include MANY holiday items from Bakery Goods, Handmade Crafts, and National Vendors
Admission $3
9001 W. 171st St., Tinley Park
For more information, email AndrewCraftShow@gmail.com

Crusaders Annual Fall Bazaar
Saturday, November 3, 2012
9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Bake Sale, Luncheon & Raffles
Grace Baptist Academy,
2499 Waldron Road, Kankakee, IL.
Free Admission * Crafters Welcome!
708-283-4190 after 5:00 p.m.

COME JOIN US!!!
Evergreen Park High School PTSA
Fall Craft Fair & EP Chamber Business Expo
Saturday, November 3, 2012 – 8:00 am to 2:00 pm
at Evergreen Park Community High School
9901 S. Kedzie Avenue, Evergreen Park
Crafts / Raffles / Baked Goods / Food Concession / Santa!
Also come for EPCHS Music Booster Pancake Breakfast 7am-12pm
For more info, call Patti Skudlarek: 708-415-2929

Frankfort Park District
19th Annual Holiday Craft Show
Saturday, November 10, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Founders Community Center
140 Oak Street, Frankfort, IL
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www.frankfortparks.org
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The Oak Lawn Garden Club

The Oak Lawn Garden Club will hold their monthly meeting on Thursday, October 25th, 2012at the Oak View Center, 4625 West 110th Street Oak Lawn, IL.

This months presentation will be Growing, Drying and Using Fall Gourds by Tom Skinner at 9:30 a.m.

The Oak Lawn Garden Club meets on the 4th Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m.

All are welcome to join. Annual dues $15.00

Vist www.oaklawngardenclub.org for more information.

Chocolate Change-Up

(NAPSA)-Trendy TV celebrity chefs fearlessly combine ingredients and flavors to create exciting new dishes. Now, here's a sweet idea from the No. 1 rice pudding manufacturer in North America, which has played "matchmaker" and created an unforgettable dessert combining two of the country's most popular and classic tastes-creamy rice pudding and rich chocolate. The delicious result is Chocolate Rice Pudding, a taste sensation that can turn any dinner into a special occasion.

This winning combination gives you the best of both worlds: rice pudding, the timeless dessert heralded throughout the U.S., now united with chocolate, America's favorite flavor. In fact, when it comes to chocolate in the U.S., Americans individually consume, on average, over 12 pounds of the sweet stuff each year.

Besides being a good source of calcium and made with natural ingredients, Kozy Shack Chocolate Rice Pudding is gluten free, low in sodium and does not contain artificial preservatives, colors or flavors.

You can find Chocolate Rice Pudding in ready-to-serve containers in the refrigerated dairy section of the supermarket.

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We have found that through the years of publishing the readers are interested in general information and also local happenings within their community. Therefore because we are fully electronic, we will not be accepting faxed or mailed news releases.

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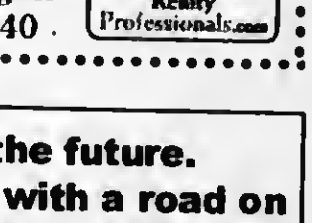

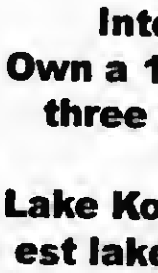

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SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 39 | Number 9 | November 6, 2012

Burbank, Evergreen Park, Hickory Hills, Justice, Oak Lawn

Evergreen Park Mayor returns to Board of Trustees meeting

by Matt Mayer

Mayor James Sexton chaired the brief Oct. 16 Evergreen Park Board of Trustees meeting for the first time after being afflicted with the West Nile Virus in August. He thanked everyone for their support and concern during his illness. He also thanked everyone for a successful Hot Rod Classic Car Show and the Fire Department Open House.

A request from Sexton to grant authorization for resolution 25-2012 in order to finalize the fiscal year was approved. A request from police chief Michael Saunders to declare a vacancy in the police department due to a patrol officer's retirement and authorization to hire one police officer to fill the vacancy was also approved.

In other village news: The Evergreen Park Youth Coat Drive will run through the end of November. Used coats will be accepted at the Community Center, 3450 W. 97th Street and additional information may be obtained by calling 708.229.3377.

"America Recycles" Textile Recycling Day will be held on Saturday Nov 10 from 10 a.m. to noon at the northwest corner of Yukich Field where the village will be collecting sheets, drapes, and bedspreads. Also if residents are in need of leaf racking, they may call the Youth Commission at 708.229.3377. They have teens looking for work.

Sexton said after the meeting that he is going for physical therapy 3 times a week for his right shoulder, back and neck. He said that the doctors assured him that his cognitive results are normal and that they expect he will have a complete recovery but it may take as long as a year. He has a neck brace and a back brace and is ambulatory with the use of a walker.

Mayor Addresses Lead Poisoning Prevention

by Jan Glaz

Mayor Howley proclaimed Lead Poisoning Prevention week from October 21st to the 27th at the October 25th Board of Trustees Meeting. Lead poisoning is a significant health problem for young children and is the most preventable pediatric health problem in the United States. Unfortunately, Illinois continues to be one of the states in the nation with the greatest number of lead-poisoned children. The Cook County Department of Public Health is working to help raise awareness of lead poisoning. Any residential or commercial unit built before 1978 can represent a risk as lead was a component in house paint until that year and even renovations to pre-1978 units could disturb lead-based paint and create a risk for young children. Even in low amounts, lead poisoning can cause "irreversible brain damage" shortened attention span, hyperactivity, aggressive behavior, learning disabilities, and other developmental problems for children. "We are trying to make as many people as possible aware of the dangers of lead," said the Mayor.

Alderman Brian Waight announced two new businesses: Southside Stallions school of Wrestling, located at 9831 S. 78th Avenue. (773) 517-6964, for wrestlers 12th grade and younger, www.southsidestallion.com and Blue Sky Travel Services located at 7667 W. 95th Street, (708) 289-4123.

Meeting Endnotes: City Clerk D'Lorah Catizone made a motion agreed upon by the city council for an Intergovernmental Agreement for Provisions of Health Inspections with the Cook County Health Department to conduct the city's health inspections. The cost will remain at $60.00 per inspection. Alderman Louis DeRose reported that the recycling container will be placed on the ground at City Hall on November 1st and that recycling days are Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Little Company of Mary Hospital Announces Crystal Heart Ball Honorees

Hospital's Premier Fundraiser to be held at the Field Museum on Feb 2, 2013.

Little Company of Mary Hospital Foundation will host the Crystal Heart Ball on Saturday, February 2, 2013, at the Field Museum. The event also showcases individuals and organizations for their outstanding accomplishments and service. This year the hospital will honor one of Metropolitan Chicago's well-known humanitarian group and an outstanding department at Little Company of Mary Hospital.

This year's Venerable Mary Potter Humanitarian Award will be presented to Marge Nykaza, founder of Harmony, Hope & Healing (HHH). HHH is a non-profit organization that provides creative, therapeutic and educational music programs, offering spiritual and emotional support to homeless and underserved women, children and men in the Chicago area. Founded in 2000, HHH collaborates with various social services, agencies, church and community-based organizations to provide therapeutic, educational and spiritual healing to a group of individuals facing the ill effects of poverty, homelessness, domestic violence, substance abuse and the isolation of aging. The goal of the program is to bring awareness that through the power of music, the mind, body and spirit can achieve balance, confidence, self expression, release stress and begin the healing process.

This year's Sister Nancy Boyle Award for Excellence honoree is Little Company of Mary's Integrative Therapy. To learn more about the Little Company of Mary's Integrative Therapy or the state-of-the-art Cancer Center- recognized by the Commission on Cancer of The American College of Surgeons, go to www.lcmh.org.

Dr. Irving and Shirley Fuld will chair this premier fundraising event along with their co-chairpersons, Mr. Matt and Mrs Mary Ellen Filosa. Guests will enjoy a cocktail reception, followed by a gourmet meal prepared by Blue Plate Catering as well as enjoy the musical stylings of the Indigo Orchestra. Attendees will have exclusive access to the featured exhibit: Maharaja: The Splendor of India's Royal Courts.

A cash raffle will be offered with a grand prize of $15,000 as well as a second prize of $5,000, third prize of $2,500, and fourth prize of $1,000. Raffle tickets are on sale for $100 each in the foundation department and winners do not have to be present.

The Crystal Heart Ball tickets are $300 per person and proceeds will benefit Values. Vision. Innovation: The Campaign for Little Company of Mary Hospital. Guests may purchase a Diamond table for $7,500, a Heart of Gold Table for $5,000, or a Crystal Heart Table for $3000, each offering special benefits. Please contact the Little Company of Mary's Foundation department to purchase your event tickets at 708.229.5447 or visit http://www.lcmhfoundation.org/events.

Justice Residents Save 40%-45% on Power Costs

by Jan Glaz

City Clerk Kathy Svoboda shared an informative newsletter at the October 22nd Village of Justice President and Board of Trustees Meeting regarding NIMEC (Northern Illinois municipal electric collaborative). NIMEC is the leader when it comes to saving dollars on energy and based on the cumulative 1.2 million residents they serve; it's a 150 million dollar savings. Municipalities not using NIMEC received an average one year bid price of 4.64 cents, as opposed to NIMEC member's price of 4.47 cents, a significant difference in commodity pricing. The 40%-45% savings to residents served by NIMEC on power supply costs surpassed all expectations. In June of 2013 ComEd expects to drop rates, this will produce further savings for NIMEC participants. The collaborative is also working with an additional 22 communities who have placed the aggregation referendum on the upcoming November ballot. NIMEC developed a website to help residents calculate their savings based upon their municipal aggregation rate: www.MyComEdBill.com

Good news for St. Xavier University, the city council voted to waive the rental fee for use of the Lipinski Community Center on December 1, 2012, for a Free Health Fair to be conducted for the benefit of the public from 8:00 am to 11:00 am. The free clinic includes blood tests, blood pressure tests, screening for cholesterol, weight, height and overall wellness. Trustee Rick Symonds motion carried Authorizing the Village Public Works department to resurface 81st Avenue from 79th Street to 80th Street. The last item approved by the city council allowed for the creation and award of a Class F Liquor License for consumption of beer and wine on the premises of Sandy's Sandwiches doing business at 8350 S. Roberts Road in Justice.

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FAR SOUTH EDITION

Volume 10 | Number 21 | November 6, 2012

Oak Forest, Orland Park, Tinley Park

Spirits and Non-Spirits are Welcome at Two Orland Locations

by Jan Glaz

The Orland Park Board of Trustees granted liquor licenses to two well-known restaurants at the Board of Trustees Meeting on Octoher 15th. The agenda stated: Increase number of Class A liquor licenses from fifty-six to fifty-seven for The Cheesecake Factory, 288 Orland Square; increase Class C liquor licenses from seven to eight for Baker's Square restaurant, 14651 S. LaGrange Road. Spirits will be limited at Bakers Square as they are allowed to only sell beer and wine. The Cheesecake Factory, lower level Orland Square Mall, set to open by December of 2012, will host a full array of alcoholic beverages. South Suburban lovers of the Cheesecake Factory's up to 200 menu offerings had to trek north or northwest to restaurants located in Chicago on the Magnifieent Mile; Skokie; Schaumburg; Lincolnshire or Oak Brook. The new Orland Park location will seat 290 guests within an 11,000 square-foot environment.

Connecting to Toys; the city council approved a request for the Toy Box Connection to conduct two important charity raffles. The first raffle will be held on Friday, November 16th, during a Bunco event at the Orland Park Civic Center. Money raised at this event will benefit the Toy Box Connection and their many programs; The second raffle will be held on Thursday, November 29th, during the Mistletoe event at the Silver Lake Country Club. Money raised at this event will benefit the Soldiers Christmas Project.

The Soldiers Christmas Project is one of the Toy Box Connection's cherished events and their goal every season is to give back to our soldiers and their families. The Connection works with Operation Homefront, Wounded Warriors, and Helmets to Hardhats. The organization is proud of collecting and giving new toys for many worthy causes including the Ronald McDonald house project. The Toy Box Connection declares, "How blessed are we to have this opportunity." For more information visit their website at http://www.toyboxconnection.com or call (708)691-2715.

Tinley Park Pays Homage to Exchange Program 2012

by Jan Glaz

On October 7th fifteen students and two teachers arrived in Tinley Park from Wolfgang-Ernst Gymnasium, the Village's Sister City of Budingen, Germany. The city recognized their presence at the Village of Tinley Park Board of Trustees Meeting, Octoher 16th. It was noted that the Sister City relationship began twenty-three years ago and has reached a new plateau with this exchange. All the students and their teachers were hosted by internationally interested and active host families from the Victor J. Andrew High School. The participating host families received special thanks and a long round of applause in appreciation of their time and taking of responsibility towards the group.

Mayor Edward Zabrocki recalled in 1992 the first of 270 students arrived from Budingen to Tinley Park and were put up in private homes. Two years later, 297 Tinley Park students traveled to Budingen in exchange. "Those two exchanges," said the Mayor, "were the largest exchanges in the Sister City Program." The Mayor also mentioned that the city is host to two other Sister City's one in Ireland and one in Poland.

Trustee Staunton hrought forth a motion that carried authorizing an amendment to the professional service contract with Site Design Group for preparation of a tree inventory and management plan before the meeting adjourned. Tree Inventories are frequently required for federal and state grant funding opportunities related to tree maintenance, replacement, etc. It has been determined that there are more trees (approximately 9,000) in the Village that need to he evaluated than was originally estimated. Funds in the amount of $55,100 were budgeted for this expenditure. The additional cost for the 9,000 trees will be $26,550. Funds are available for this amendment from the Village's Capital Improvement Fund.

5th Grade Junior Troop #60217 (Left to Right) Back Row: Sydney Hellmann (Orland Hills), Courtney Maloney (Orland Pk), Macy Sherwood (Tinley PK) Front Row: Katie Rost (Orland Park), Alena Pedroza (Orland Park), Tori Quinlan (Orland Park), Kathleen Johnson (Orland Park), Teagan Sopezak (Tinley Park) Not Pictured: Nicole Todd (Orland Park), Grace Alles (Tinley Park), Stephanie Gaspardo (Tinley Park), Kylie Adams (Tinley Park), Angelina Marino (Orland Park)

Cardinal Joseph Bernardin's Girl Scouts Spread Birthday Cheer

Cardinal Joseph Bernardin (CJB) Girl Scout Troop 60217 and Troop 60459 graciously created 24 "Birthday Boxes" for needy families at Together We Cope (TWC) of Tinley Park. Each of the hoxes provided the necessities for a successful child's hirthday party. The CJB students planned and executed this service project under the guidance of Troop Leader Kerry Rost. The hundles of fun were recently delivered to TWC in October.

Through stich fundraising events, as a garage sale and eookhook sale, the CJB Girl Scouts were ahle to purchase a variety of birthday party items. They enthusiastically filled each themed birthday box to the rim with cake mix, frosting, birthday plates, napkins, a birthday banner and a special card. While Troop Leader Rost delivered the boxes, she was repeatedly thanked by TWC staff and volunteers. "This is going to make so many children happy!" These sentiments reflect the exact goal that CJB Girl Scout Troop 60217 and Troop 60459 had in mind.

For additional information about Cardinal Joseph Bernardin Catholic School, please contact Mrs. Cynthia Devlin at 708-403-6525 or visit www.cardinaljbschool.com.

Oak Forest to Restore Lake Emily

hy Jan Glaz

The ramifications of land gone wild came up for discussion at the Oak Forest City Council Meeting ounOctober 23 prior to accepting an agreement with a Stewardship Proposal from Pizzo Associates, Ltd. Leland, Illinois in the amount of $78,000 to restore and maintain a retention pond known as Lake Emily. The pond is located near 151st Street and Landings Lane. Troy Ishler, City Administrator, defined the parameters of the agreement as a long term project emphasizing that although the contract is for ten years it is year by year owing to an out clause, if the city is not satisfied for any reason.

Alderman Ensign presented facts pertinent to the erosion problem surrounding Lake Emily. "Over the years it has been mismanaged, the area has gotten wider, shallower, and wilder... last year brought the growth of horrihle algae hlooms and lily pads, duck weeds, that clogged aerators." Administrator Ishler stressed that Lake Emily is a retention pond utilized for flood control and as such belongs to the city. He commented that residents have complained about excessive littering and recreational use of the pond. At a future date the city couneil will address the issue of access hy residents, and the possihility of imposing fines. "This is not a hangout," said Ishler. Mayor Kuspa agreed. "The pond is designed to hold thousands of gallons of water and slowly allow that water to pass down to the next pond... understand this is city property to be maintained hy the city."

Fine Tuning Video Gaming - City Clerk Scott Burkhardt provided details regarding the city's stand on the issue of video gaming before the meeting adjourned. The city council approved amending a section of the Oak Forest Municipal Code pertaining to Coin-Operated Amusement Devices and to Video Gaming Terminals. Burkhardt rewrote the ordinance with the assistance of the city's legal counsel which incorporated a definition of what a video gaming machine is and is not also the number of coin-operated machines allowed in an establishment. There is prohihition against the number video gaming terminals by State Statue; the maximum numher is limited to five. The cost fee payable to the city stands at $500 per machine.

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SOUTH SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 13 | Number 21 | November 6, 2012

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

Live-Action Graphic Novel performance at Moraine Valley

Comic book fans should not miss The Intergalactic Nemesis: Live-Action Graphic Novel at Moraine Valley Community College on Saturday, November 10. This family-friendly performance will begin at 7:30 p.m., in the Dorothy Menker Theater, in the Fine and Performing Arts Center, 9000 W. College Pkwy., Palos Hills. Tickets are $25 for adults and $20 for seniors and students.

This theatrical experience mashes up radio drama with comic books. During the show three actors voice dozens of characters, one artist creates hundreds of sounds and one keyboardist accompanies while more than 1,250 hand-drawn, blow-your-mind comic book images blast from a large screen.

The story follows Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter Molly Sloan, her intrepid assistant Timmy Mendez and a mysterious librarian named Ben Wilcott as they face the most serious threat Earth has ever known: an impending invasion of sludge monsters from the planet Zygon.

The Intergalactic Nemesis: Live-Action Graphic Novel has been featured on TBS's CONAN and NPR's "All Things Considered."

Tickets to The Intergalactic Nemesis: Live-Action Graphic Novel and other upcoming performances can be purchased at morainevalley.edu/fpac, by calling (708) 974-5500, or at the Box Office located on the south end of the Fine and Performing Arts Center.

For news media inquiries, call Jessica Crotty, College and Community Relations coordinator, at (708) 974-5281, or e-mail her at crotty@morainevalley.edu.

Palos Park Public Library

The Book & Film Series returns to the Palos Park Public Library on Wednesday, Nov.14th at 2 p.m. with The Descendents, an Oscar winning film based on the novel by Kaui Hart Hemmings and stars George Clooney. Run time 115 minutes.

This program is free and open to the public. All who attend will be entered in a raffle to win a free copy of the book. Didn't read the book? Come out anyway! Join us to judge a book by its movie. The library is located at 12330 Forest Glen Boulevard. Call the library to register at (708) 448-1530, or for more information, visit the library online at www.palosparklibrary.org.

Floral designer Bridget Bittman will present Get Your Green On: Fresh Greenery Creations for the Holiday at the Palos Park Public Library on Saturday, Nov. 17 at 11 a.m. Learn how to use natural elements to decorate the home and to arrange evergreens, twigs, cranberries, and pinecones using several unusual containers to create fabulous looks for the holidays. Ideas for creating the perfect holiday table, from casual to formal, will also be presented. Call the library to register at 708-448-1530 or visit the library online at www.palosparklibrary.org . The library is located at 12330 Forest Glen Blvd. in Palos Park.

Honor Wall

Chicago Ridge wants to recognize village residents serving in the military and is asking for help to gather an accurate representation. The village has constructed a glass ease to be displayed in the atrium of the Eugene L. Siegel Municipal Complex, 10455 Ridgeland Avenue, to recognize and honor soldiers from Chicago Ridge on active duty. The case will include photos and information about each soldier.

"They are out there defending and serving our country and they should be recognized," Tokar said. "We would like to recognize these people with a nice space in the atrium to honor them."

5 x 7 photos of soldiers can be dropped off at Village Hall. Information included should be the soldiers' names, branch of the military and any information about who they are, where they are stationed and when they are returning home. For further details and information, call or stop in at Village of Chicago Ridge at 10455 S. Ridgeland Avenue, Chicago Ridge, Illinois or call 708-425-7700.

City of Palos Heights

Veteran's Program will be held on Monday, November 12th at 11 am at the Veterans Memorial aeross from City Hall. In the event of rain, the program will be held in City Hall of Palos Heights.

Holiday Tree Trimming Contest

The City of Palos Heights is sponsoring the Annual Holiday Tree Decorating Contest. There is no entry fee and trees will be provided by the City. The trees will be displayed at the Art Garden throughout the holiday season. Participants must be Palos Heights' residents or belong to a Palos Heights organization. Applications can be obtained by following at City Hall, or call 708-361-1800.

Applications must be submitted by November 23rd, 2012.

Public Arts Commission Established

The City of Palos Heights is seeking qualified individuals to serve as members on its newly created Public Arts Commission. Interested persons must be residents of Palos Heights, 18 years of age or older, and have knowledge and experience related to the arts. Resumes should be submitted to the attention of Mayor Straz, Palos Heights City Hall, 7607 W. College Drive. For more information, please call Pat in the Mayor's Office at 708-480-3003.

Art for the Season

Arts & Crafts Festival at Stagg High School at 111 Street and Ridgeland, Palos Heights, IL.

November 10th, 9am to 4pm, November 11th, 10am to 3pm, $2 Adult Admission. Children Free.

Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony

Friday, December 7th from 6:30 to 8:30pm at the Palos Heights Fire Station, 123rd Street & Harlem Avenue. You won't want to miss...

Free photo op with Santa, bring your cameras!

Neighborhood wagon rides provided by Lake Katherine!

Caroling by St. Alexander Girl Scouts & Cadette Troops!

Winners of tree decorating contest announced!

Hot chocolate provided by Tastee Freez!

Holiday Shoppe

The walls of the McCord House will be decked out with art and fine crafts, which will make perfect gifts for those lucky people on your list. What could be more special than a handcrafted piece of jewelry, an inlaid footstool, or a fused glass picture frame? Silk scarves, pens, ornaments, photographs, paintings, pottery, quilts, and cards are among other items to be available. Join us to celebrate and support local artists while shopping in the relaxed atmosphere of the historic McCord House. A portion of your purchases are tax-deductible and members of McCord receive a 10% discount. The Holiday Shoppe is going to start on November 23, 2012 to December 22, 2012. Stop in and shop at McCord Gallery at 9602 West Creek Road, Palos Park. Call for information at 708-671-0648.

Remembering Mr. Dan: A Celebration of His Life

The Worth community is planning a family memorial for librarian "Mr. Dan" Braun. The event, "Remembering Mr. Dan: A Celebration of His Life" will be held at the Worth Junior High School at 11151 S. New England on Monday, November 12 at 7pm. We ask that you please wear something that pertains to the Chicago Bears. All ages are welcome to come celebrate the impact that Dan had on our community.

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B-MAC EDITION

Volume 6 | Number 21 | November 6, 2012

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Alsip Accepts Donation of Lots in Mulberry Ridge

by Jan Glaz

The city of Alsip voted in favor of an Ordinance approving a Real Estate Sale Contract and authorizing acceeptance of eertain property lots in the Mulberry Ridge Townhomes Subdivision at the Village Board Meeting October 15th. The property, donated by MB Financial, has an estimated value of 16.5 million dollars, ineluding underground utilities, electricity, water and roads. This coineides with Mayor Kitching's creation of a Land Bank since taking office; one donated property stretches 8.5 aeres along the tollway, another, the Veterans Plaza property, donated by the Kenney Family, is the largest aequisition.

Residents from Alsip's Heritage Properties approached the city eouneil at the public portion of the meeting to complain about deplorable conditions within the Heritage buildings. Renters voieed eoncern about disgusting issues ineluding persistent foul odors and rotting earpeting. Although the city is working to upgrade the properties with improvements such as renovated laundry rooms, repainted apartments and hallways, new flooring, new carpeting, and attractive artwork placed in foyers, renters confirmed that the project is "taking too long". Trustee Ryan reassured them that the city is setting up a schedule

to complete the project in a timely manner, which in the end will also attract new renters to the unoccupied Heritage apartments.

End Notes: an IDOT Motor Fuel Tax Allotment was aceepted for the month of August in the amount of $41,130.94 and a new fire alarm system will be installed in the Public Works facility by Reliable Fire Equipment at a cost of $6,839.00.

Crestwood Attracts Major Businesses

by Jan Glaz

On November 1st at the Crestwood Board of Trustees Meeting the city eouneil directed the Village Attorney to prepare a Speeial Use Permit Ordinanee to permit Maximum Reeovery Service, Ine., a towing reloeation and repossession eompany to be located at 4737 West 138th Street. The big news: Crestwood is attraeting seores of nationwide business ehains. Tax Ineentives, a super loeation adjaeent to the Tollway and a well-run eommunity are factors that make the town irresistible to retailers and serviee based businesses. A visit to the Rivererest Shopping Center, 13200 Cieero Avenue and the surrounding areas will not disappoint. Ultra Foods and the Party Store opened reeently; eoming soon: Ross Dress for Less; O'Reilly Auto Parts and a much anticipated opening of Chipotle Mexiean Grill, to be loeated at 131st and Cieero.

It was reported that the Cook County Highway Department has plans to reeycle Central Avenue from 127th to 135th Street. There will be some ditches enelosed, and the elimination of guardrails. The bridge in Crestwood will also go under repair. The project is going for a Jan/Feb 2013 bid, and work is to eommence in the spring of 2013.

The Board of Trustees accepted three appointments to the Police Department: Jeffrey T. Storez, Edward Dobrowolski and Chad Fredericksen. There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn.

Live-Action Graphic Novel performance at Moraine Valley

Comic book fans should not miss The Intergalaetie Nemesis: Live-Action Graphic Novel at Moraine Valley Community College on Saturday, November 10. This family-friendly performanee will begin at 7:30 p.m., in the Dorothy Menker Theater, in the Fine and Performing Arts Center, 9000 W. College Pkwy., Palos Hills. Tickets are $25 for adults and $20 for seniors and students.

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For news media inquiries, eall Jessiea Crotty, College and Community Relations coordinator, at (708) 974-5281, or e-mail her at erotty@morainevalley.edu.

Energy Assistance Fair Arrives in Crestwood

by Jan Glaz

The Village of Crestwood welcomes residents to meet local representatives from Ceda, Nicor, and

ComEd at the Energy and Information Fair hosted by Cook County Commissioner Joan Patricia Murphy on Friday, November 16th, at the Crestwood Biela Center, 4545 Midlothian Turnpike, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fast and easy applications for LIHEAP (low income home energy assistance program) will be processed at the Energy Fair. Federal funds are available to families that qualify and eitizens are urged to bring proof of gross income for the last 30 days, original Social Seeurity eards for all household members and eurrent Nicor and ComEd utility bills. Other programs are also available to help meet family needs. For more information eall 708-389-2125.

Crestwood Mayor Robert Stranezek announeed a list of appointments on October 18th at the Village of Crestwood Board of Trustees Meeting. For the Crestwood Police Department, for part-time employment, the Police Officers are Edward Dobrowski, Chad Fredericksen and Jeffrey Storez, at a rate of $12.75 per hour with their term ending October 31, 2013. For the Crestwood Wellness Center the Mayor named Mike Brady, David Ziolkowski, and Erik Ziolkowski.

End Note: The Board of Trustees granted a Special Use Ordinance to permit an oil change and lubriea-tion company, D&C Express Lube LLC/DBA Havoline Express Lube, to be located at 14200 S. Cicero Avenue.

Midlothian Cicero Avenue Project "A Bit Tricky"

by Jan Glaz

An Ordinance Terminating the Midlothian Cicero Corridor TIF (Tax Increment Finance) Redevelopment Project Area met with full board approval on October 24th at the Village of Midlothian Board Meeting. The termination is an important step in the process and progress of reestablishing a new TIF and the redevelopment of the area around 147th and Cicero. Mayor Stephens defined the eause leading up to the necessity of abating the existing TIF to be the drop in property value. City Administrator James Lang explained that once the TIF is terminated the city will certify the abatement with the county and begin the lengthy process of activating a new TIF with the taxing bodies. Prior to taking this step the city was going to lose approximately 1.8 million dollars in bondable cash value in the TIF bond market. Now, due to the drastic drop in property value and the TIF Statute, the city has a onetime good offer: abolish the existing TIF in the area, establish a new TIF, and capture the future increment- getting back about two years of money in the 23 lifespan of the TIF district.

Lang stated the procedure is the same as the abated TIF except the new TIF district will become much smaller. To begin the TIF a new redevelopment plan and eligibility report must be available at village hall; wait 45 days; at that point the city holds a public hearing; wait 30 days, send notification letters to residential units within 180 feet of the proposed boundaries of the TIF district; wait 30 days, for official response. The timeline for board action is late February or early March. "There's a lot of action just like the military... action and wait," said Lang.

The Board of Trustees approved additional savings before the meeting adjourned: A joint agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation for Street Improvements on 147th Street Ordinances and Resolutions. Mayor Stephens confirmed the agreement brings the amount of money spent on street lights and traffic signals down from 50,800.00 to around $6,000. "A significant change in cost," said the Mayor.

Top L-R: Paul, Mother-Lisa, Timothy
Middle Descending L-R: Ehron, Katherine, John, Elizabeth Bottom L-R: Christina & Rebekah

A Living Diamond "The Bourné Family"

by Jan Glaz

Like a multifaceted diamond mother Lisa and her eight children capture an audience with the brilliance of multiple talents. Hailing from Dalton, Illinois, the family began singing together at home - a home overflowing with love, music, learning and zany fun. Their unique vocal harmonies are often referred to as "the voice of angels." Appropriately, it was a candlelight Christmas Eve church service that launched "the voice of angels" and thereafter, around 2009, the Bourne's began traveling and singing together as a family troupe. The word 'together' is key to their musical artistry. Collectively, they sing everything from Kyrie's to Korean pop music and... everything in between; play an array of instruments; write original songs; and produce an attention-grabbing show to behold!

It's no surprise that the joy of home and family is the heart and soul theme of their concerts.

The title "Welcome to Our Home" presented July 21st 2012 at the Roosevelt University Auditorium Katten/Landau Studio played to a sold out audience. "Home for the Holidays" is the theme for this year's one-of-a-kind musical journey December 1st, at the Auditorium Katten/Landau Studio, a voyage not to be missed.

In a recent interview I had the opportunity to meet all nine members of the extraordinary Bourné family. Mother Lisa and her eight children, according to age, Elizabeth; Christina; Katherine; Paul; Timothy; Rebekah, Ehron, and John. Each graciously and often times humorously allowed a glimpse into the shining light their family represents. Excerpts from my visit reveal interesting insights into the lives of an amazing American gift "The Bourné Family".

Jan: Lisa your children began home schooling in a period when it was uncommon to do so. Can you comment on why you embarked on that learning environment?

Lisa: The school curriculum was not up to par and also a lot of people might not understand but God is in my life and I am led by him. God let me know what I needed to do and he showed me home schooling and that's what I pursued.

Jan: Did you join a particular organization for home schooled children?

Lisa: In the area where we were at the time it was the Homewood home school group and I was a part of Chat, that was a home school group as well.

Jan; What is your educational background?

Lisa: My major in school was accounting (laughs). Jan: Have you home schooled each child?

Lisa: All but the two oldest, Elizabeth and Christina.

Jan: Do you feel the home schooling has contributed to the success of the family as a whole? Lisa: Most definitely - the children are nodding "yes". Outside influences would have interfered with a lot of things, plus the home schooling made them closer to each other.

Jan: Has the Bourné Family any future goals in the entertainment field such as performing globally, in commercial theater productions or movie films?.

Lisa: All of the above. We have many gifts in our family.

Jan: Elizabeth, as the oldest you experienced traditional schooling can you comment on the experience.

Elizabeth: I have one or two people that I stay in contact with from High School and I have one from college. Kind of like one from every group and mentioning social networks if I want to say something to people from seventh grade I could. Actually, I'm working at the High School where I graduated as well, my Alma Mater: Thornridge High School. I Attended Olivet Nazarene University, and Roosevelt University, Chicago. I graduated with 4.0. Degree, Bachelor's General Studies (Major: Political Science: Public Administration).

Jan: What are you doing within the family for the upcoming concert Home for the Holidays?

Elizabeth: I'm working on putting together all the sets for the show. The first concert we did we had a little gift for each of the participants and this year we're expanding it so that at every table for the cabaret there'll be a special prize. For this concert there will be a handmade gift for everyone who attends plus a 'special prize' a big gift for each table, like a Christmas Present.

Jan: Christina, your credits are also impressive, graduate of Roosevelt University, Bachelor of Arts (Major: Vocal Performance: Sociology) and currently Director of Education & Special Programs at the Auditorium Theatre, Chicago. I read in your blog that you're a lyric soprano and work as a musical coach, Assistant Stage Manager, member of the Development team for events, selling for Group Sales, and an occasional "understudy" for shows on stage. Wow! You're a Jill of all trades. Do you have any aspirations to branch out on your own as a producer and director away from a University environment?

Christiana: I do enjoy working in the performing arts it's a lot of fun for me, so my long term vision would be something like becoming the Executive Director of a theater, being able to put those things together and to do great work; the kind of work that we're able to do as a family.

Jan: Have you written any songs that are attributed to you alone.

Christina: I'm not the composer of the family, we all do a little something, but most of our compositions come from a few people like Katherine, Rebecca, and Paul, they write a lot of music and Katherine arranges it.

Jan: What are your thoughts on the family's latest production Home for the Holidays? Christina: The nice thing about Home for the Holidays is that there are so many different aspects of the holiday season that are important, so the concert will definitely feature lots of Christmas favorites but there are also other holidays around this season like Hanukah... we will explore the whole meaning and purpose of this particular season.

Jan: Katherine your schooling is impressive, Public School (K-6th); home-schooled (7th-12th). In May of 2013 you expect to graduate from South Suburban College. You list your Major as Vocal Performance: Minor, Piano: Guitar: Composition. And may I mention, Dean's List & Phi Theta Kappa Member and Tudor Student Government member. In your blog you describe yourself as a mediator, a family consultant, and the family member responsible for selecting and organizing the music. A concert rides on its music and its organization sets the tone of a performance. Your family contribution is a great responsibility. What are your thoughts on the subject of stress?

Katherine: Well, I pull my hair out (laughs). I do require a lot of quite time. I have to think and process. I have lists and lists of scenarios. It is very time consuming.

Jan: What are your feelings about your role as family mediator and consultant?

Katherine: I love being loved... I'd like to say something about the Home for the Holidays concert. The first part of the concert will be an outdoor setting like your experiencing outdoor caroling inside and the second part will be a holiday party setting including a lot of fun and interaction with the audience.

Jan: Paul, at the young age of 20 you are quite a busy guy. I noticed you attended Public School kindergarten only; Home-schooled (1st-12th). After that the list goes on. Communications & Graphic Arts double major at South Suburban College; Dean's List & Phi Theta Kappa Member; television personality for South Suburban College's weekly, current events program, SSC's Daily Delivery, which can be viewed online and through local satellite cable channels. Do you have any other interests, or hobbies?

Paul: I enjoy drawing and sometime in the future I hope to produce films and television productions. As an art student I'm the one putting our website together: www.thebournesmusic.com

Jan: How do you view your personality?

Paul: I can be quite at times but I like meeting people and having fun; the sociable type (laughs). I'm not always good at it but I try.

Jan: Timothy, you're on the heels of Paul at 18. You were Home-schooled (Birth-12th) and are currently preparing for entrance examinations for college and plan on studying engineering in the spring. I'd like to ask what type of music is your favorite.

Timothy: I don't have any one favorite style because I can find certain aspects in all music that I find enjoyable. I like studying engineering but I also want to produce our music.

Jan: Any other interests?

Timothy: (Excited) I'm actually making a hand drawn comic book; in fact I've finished it. My comic is not your regular ultra-human character. My characters are all normal people who encounter strange circumstances: Not hero's fighting people all the time.

Jan: Rebekah, Interesting to note that you've been home-schooled (Birth-Present) and are now preparing for entrance into college in the fall of 2013. What are some of your favorite outlets and what do you enjoy about performing with your family?

Rebekah: (answers quickly) I like books a lot and listening to music: Performing with my family,... being together and making people happy.

Jan: I heard you play the most instruments of all the members in the family. The family list is remarkable, harp; piano; violin; electric and acoustic guitar; drums; bass guitar; saxophone; flute and harmonica. What are your instruments of expertise?

Rebekah: Piano, Guitar, classical Violin, and I play base too.

Jan: Ehron, you are home schooled from birth and at 14 considered a high school freshman. What do you like doing when you're not practicing or performing?

Ehron: Taking a nap: (everyone laughs)!

Jan: How would family members describe you? Before Ehron can answer, the family starts joking about Ehron: loveable, quite, wild, funny...

Ehron: I think I'm funny and quiet and not wild. I love children and I like to help them, I'd love to have an orphanage and I want to be a teacher.

Jan: John, my interview ends with you, the youngest of eight, also home schooled and currently in 8th Grade. What do you like about being the youngest family member?

John: Being the youngest and I like being the tallest.

Jan: You're the tallest?

John: (laughing) Not yet, but I will be. Oh, and I'm the drummer in the family!

The "Bourné Family" a true American family in every sense of the word invites everyone:

Home for The Holidays With The Bourné Family

Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University's Katten/Landau Studio http://auditoriumtheatre.org. (312) 341-2357. Saturday, December 1, 2012, 425 S Wabash Ave., Chicago, IL 6060.

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We have found that through the years of publishing the readers are interested in general information and also local happenings within their community. Therefore because we are fully electronic, we will not be accepting faxed or mailed news releases.

Candidates for State Rep. & Senator Visits the Lion Club of Evergreen Park

Current candidates Kelly Burke for State Representative and Bill Cunningham for State Senator were the featured speakers at a recent meeting of the Lions Club of Evergreen Park. They spoke about the current fiscal problems of the State and many other factors affecting the coming election. Lion members had many questions for them which were discussed in detail. Pictured above are Lion Vice President Jerry Werner, current Representative and candidate for re-election Kelly Burke, Lion President Terry Summers, and current Representative and candidate for State Senator Bill Cunningham.

For further info on the Lions club you may visit their web site @ http://lionsluhofevergreenparkil.lionwap.org.

Moraine Valley to honor veterans during ceremony

A Veteran's Day celebration at Moraine Valley Community College will honor all veterans on Monday, November 12, at 10 a.m. The ceremony will be in Building U, on campus, 9000 W. College Pkwy., Palos Hills. Veterans and the general public are invited to attend.

Moraine Valley's student organization Combat 2 College is hosting this annual event, which will include remarks from the organization's president, Jose Ledesma, and Joe Staehon, Illinois VFW commander. These men also will lay a wreath that honors the dead. The Navy Band Great Lakes, MWCS-48 Color Guard will present the colors.

Guests attending the ceremony also can visit the Illinois Order of the Purple Heart Wall. Dan Finn, past Military Order of the Purple Heart state commander, will erect the wall in U111. The exhibit features tiled photos of Illinois soldiers who have fallen during the War on Terrorism. It will be on display until 1 p.m.

For more information about the Veteran's Day celebration, contact General McArthur III at (708) 608-4144 or email him at McArthurIIIG@morainevalley.edu.

Veterans Day Mass

The Junior High Classes of St. Albert the Great Catholic School will be celebrating a Veterans Day Mass on Monday, November 12, 2012 at 8:30 AM.

Refreshments will be served in the school following the liturgy. We would be pleased and honored if you will join us.

Please feel free to share your stories, photos, mementos and memories with the students. Displays may be set up in the school library.

St. Albert the Great Church 5555 West State Road (80th & Central Ave.) Burbank, IL 60459

For additional information, call the school office at 708-424-7757.

God Bless our Veterans.

Veterans Day Parade

Seeking community and neighborhood entries with the theme "Operation: Thank A Vet." Looking to honor and thank Blue Star and Gold Star families. Call 708-774-4627 or email luck-e-pup@comeast.net for details, on Sunday, Nov. 11, 11 a.m.

Parade is fr a 123 & Western to Memorial Park in Blue Island, IL.

Drama Club production

Kerr and Veterans Memorial Middle Schools present "Sideways Stories from Wayside School," the zany two-act production based on popular novels by Louis Sachar.

On Thursday & Friday, November 15 & 16 at 7:00 p.m.; Saturday, November 17, 2:00 p.m., Cost $4/$8, at the Veterans Memorial Middle School, 12320 S. Greenwood Ave., in Blue Island, IL.

"Those Were the Days" Live Radio Show

Chuck Shaden brings the Golden Age of Radio back to life. See how they made the sound effects and watch a show happen right before your very eyes. Tickets are $5 each and are available at Carr home-garden-holiday, 2357 York St. Blue Island, IL.

On Sunday, November 18, at 2:00 p.m., Cost is $5.

To be held at the Veterans Memorial Theater, 123rd & Greenwood Ave, Blue Island, IL.

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."
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Photo credit: Waldemar Reichert

Smith Senior Living Thanks Board Chairman for Service

Rare 1892 map of Chicago area finds a good home with Bob Berghoff

Bob Berghoff (center), co-founder of the Chicago law firm Berghoff and Berghoff Ltd., shows his appreciation for a gift presented by Smith Senior Living leaders as an expression of gratitude for his five years serving as chairman of the board of directors of the not-for-profit organization.

Kevin McGee (left), CEO of Smith Senior Living, and George Petraitis, the newly elected chairman of the board, bestow a rare 1892 map of Chicago to Berghoff, who continues as a trustee on the Smith board that he has served for more than two decades. Smith Senior Living sponsors two continuing care retirement communities—Smith Village in Chicago's Beverly area and Smith Crossing in south suburban Orland Park.

McGee commissioned Vicki Sobczak of Heritage Gallery to conduct a search for an antique map that depicted a time when Chicago's South Side dominated the city. The one she found shows Chicago's Beverly neighborhood included in the city limits; however, Morgan Park, where the original retirement community was established in 1924, was not yet part of the city.

Christmas Time in Palos

The Palos Heights Public Library presents... Christmastime in Palos, Saturday, December 1, 9am to 1pm The annual Christmas in Palos Celebration sponsored by the Friends of the Palos Heights Library will be held on December 1st from 9am to 1pm at the Library. This festive event will feature holiday music, special entertainment in the meeting room, and delicious snacks provided by local businesses. No vendors this year. Children will be greeted by Mr. and Mrs. Claus and will enjoy activities including a magic show at 11:30am, arts and crafts, and facepainting. Christmas books and specially selected coffee table books will be available for purchase. All area residents are invited to attend this free holiday celebration.

12501 S. 71st Avenue, Palos Heights, IL (708) 448-1473, www.palosheightslibrary.org.

Tinley Park Library

Holiday Classics Concert

The Tinley Park Public Library will host Holiday Classics Concert on Sunday, December 9, 2012 at 3 pm. Enjoy a musical performance of holiday classical music with saxophonist Andrew Carpenter and pianist Tatiana Naumova. Selections by Handel and Bach will set the mood for a peaceful holiday season. Register in person, online or by phone beginning November 20.

Gifts from the Kitchen

The Tinley Park Public Library will host Gifts from the Kitchen on Wednesday, December 12, 2012 at 7 pm. Make someone special a tasty gift this holiday including cranberry-orange muffins and Buche de Noel (yule log). Register in person, online or by phone beginning November 20.

Love Grows... by Giving

The Tinley Park Public Library will once again be a drop off site for your holiday donations for the following local organizations: Crisis Center of South Suburbia, Tinley Park Food Pantry, and Together We Cope. Boxes marked for each group along with a wish list will be located in the library's lobby beginning Monday, November 26 through Friday, December 14, 2012. Your generosity to our community's needy is most appreciated. All three organizations will gladly accept gift cards from local stores as well as cash donations; please make checks payable to the organization of your choice.

For more information, please call 708.532.0160, x 3. The library is located at 7851 Timber Drive. Our website is www.tplibrary.org.

Calling All Seniors!

Bremen Township continues to serve hot, nutritious "Senior Meals" at the Township Senior Center, located at 15350 Oak Park Avenue, Oak Forest. We serve at 12 noon, Monday thru Friday. You must be at least 60 years old to qualify. This program is in partnership with AgeOptions and Catholic Charities. Donation: $4.00. Please make a reservation 3-5 days in advance, if possible, at 708-687-8220."

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Grade School Students Shine at "It's Academic" held by St. Rita

Twenty-seven grammar school teams recently participated in the "It's Academic" competition hosted at St. Rita High School. The scholastic competition is based on the old College Bowl format and is designed to acknowledge grammar school students by recognizing their achievements in the classroom. Questions are from the following categories: Mathematics, English Composition and Literature, Social Studies, Science and Current Events/Geography.

The competition is divided into three rounds. In Rounds I and II, each team had the opportunity to answer up to 10 questions in 90 seconds. In those rounds, only the team whose turn it was could answer. In Round III there were ten questions for either team to answer. Team members "buzzed in" to answer those questions. If they failed to answer the question, the other team may have elected to answer. There were no penalties for incorrect answers—just lost opportunities to score points.

Trophies and medals were awarded to the First Place team from St. Christina School in Mt. Greenwood – Joe Durnell, James Loughney, John Julkowski, Ryan Marquardt and Ryan Kaczynski. Second Place was won by one of the teams from St. Michael School in Orland Park – Adam Harrington, Chris Kitchin, Brady Mack, Dennis McCarthy, Josh Nolan, Ben Cachares, Dylan Violetto and Tom Bernecker. Third Place winners were from the team members from St. John Fisher School in Beverly – Nate Finn, Sean Bird, Qui Do, Pat Smith, Connor Scott, Ryan Caulfield, Liam Kelly and Brett Folliard.

Each year that St. Rita has sponsored "It's Academic," some of the best and brightest students from the Chicagoland area have participated in this very spirited competition. Each student who participated received a St. Rita backpack.

St. Laurence Student Accepted into Mentoring Program

Christopher Thomas '15, a St. Laurence High School student, was recently accepted into the Kappa Leadership Institute, a mentoring program that prepares students for college and their careers. Thomas had to complete a long and rigorous application process, including essays and interviews, in order to be accepted into the program. Now that he has been accepted, he said he is very excited for the program to begin. Thomas will be joining other students from Chicago, Indiana, and southern Wisconsin at the Leadership Institute, where they will receive academic training including ACT and SAT preparation classes, training to develop writing skills, academic tutoring, and college application preparation. This training will help students like Thomas become stronger academically, as well as prepare them for college and beyond.

Village Invites Residents To Apply for Rebates Online

Eligible Village of Orland Park residents may apply for the village's residential property tax rebate beginning October 29, 2012. The Village Board voted to rebate $2.5 million in residential property taxes as a result of the Village of Orland Park's strong financial position. This will mark a village tax rebate for eight of the last 11 years.

"We began rebating a portion of the property taxes that residents pay to the village in 2003, and despite a suspension of the program during the economic downturn, are pleased that the village is again in a strong financial position to offer the rebate," said Orland Park Mayor Dan McLaughlin.

The total amount rebated to Village of Orland Park residents from 2003 to 2009 was approximately $27.6 million.

"Though the village's portion of the property tax bill is only about 7%, the rebate provides some relief for residents," said Trustee Brad O'Halloran, chair of the village's Finance Committee. "We are fortunate to be able to provide the rebate through Home Rule Sales Tax while continuing to provide a large number of valuable services for village residents," O'Halloran added.

When the village last offered the property tax rebate, the amount that each household received was determined by the equalized assessed value of the home. This year's rebate will be evenly divided among eligible residents who submit applications and documentation that are reviewed and approved by the village.

The return of the Village of Orland Park's Property Tax Rebate Program brings the newly added ability to apply for the rebate online.

"Residents now have three ways to apply for the rebate. They can apply online beginning October 29 at www.optaxrebate.com," said Trustee Jim Dodge, chairman of the village's Communications and Technology Committee. "They can download a paper application and bring the completed application in to Village Hall or they can pick up an application at specific buildings in the village and apply in person or by mail," he added.

An instructional video of the online application process will appear on the village's cable television stations, Orland Park Comcast Channel 4 and A T & T U-Verse Channel 99 and on the village's website at www.orland-park.il.us. Residents who need additional assistance when applying online can also visit the village's Office of Public Information in the Frederick T. Owens Village Hall.

On-line and paper applications will be available beginning at 8 a.m. on Monday, October 29. Paper applications are at the Frederick T. Owens Village Hall at 14700 South Ravinia Avenue; the Recreation Administration Building at 14600 South Ravinia Avenue; the village's Sportsplex at 11351 West 159th Street and at the Orland Park Public Library, 14800 South Ravinia Avenue.

Along with the required application, an eligible resident must include copies of their 2011 second installment property tax bill, driver's license and a utility bill. Those applying online can scan and upload copies of the documents or take a picture of them with a cell phone or tablet.

If a Village of Orland Park municipal bill account number is provided during the online process or on the paper application, a copy of a recent utility bill is not required.

"The online process makes it more convenient for those who are familiar with computers and uploading documents," McLaughlin said. "However, we have paper applications for those who don't use computers," he noted.

Eligible village residents must apply before 5 p.m. on Friday, December 14, 2012. Questions may be directed to the village's Tax Rebate Hotline at 708/403-3086.

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Notary Phyllis Miceli of Parcels Express Receives 2012 Best of Chicago Award

Chicago Award Program Honors the Achievement

Notary Phyllis Miceli of Parcels Express, 12003 S. Pulaski, Alsip, IL 60803 has been selected for the 2012 Best of Chicago Award in the Notary Public Services category by the Chicago Award Program.

Each year, the Chicago Award Program identifies companies that we believe have achieved exceptional marketing success in their local community and business category. These are local companies that enhance the positive image of small business through service to their customers and our community. These exceptional companies help make the Chicago area a great place to live, work and play.

Various sources of information were gathered and analyzed to choose the winners in each category. The 2012 Chicago Award Program focuses on quality, not quantity. Winners are determined based on the information gathered both internally by the Chicago Award Program and data provided by third parties.

About Chicago Award Program

The Chicago Award Program is an annual awards program honoring the achievements and accomplishments of local businesses throughout the Chicago area. Recognition is given to those companies that have shown the ability to use their best practices and implemented programs to generate competitive advantages and long-term value.

The Chicago Award Program was established to recognize the best of local businesses in our community. Our organization works exclusively with local business owners, trade groups, professional associations and other business advertising and marketing groups. Our mission is to recognize the small business community's contributions to the U.S. economy.

SOURCE: Chicago Award Program

Advertise, Thanksgiving and Christmas Sales, vvnew.com or call 708-425-1910.

Hometown-Murray Ladies Auxiliary

The Hometown-Murray Ladies Auxiliary # 9773 at 9092 S. Main St., Hometown, IL. is having there annual Card & Bunco Party(or bring your own game) on Nov. 25, 2012 at 1:00 PM. Cost $10.00. Includes deli luncheon, salads, and a dessert table. There will be a raffle table.

Both men and women welcomed. Questions or for tickets call Irene 708 366-3266.

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Nicole just finished her last tennis season at MVCC and it was an amazing season!

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11/7/2012, 10:00 a.m.
Golden Bear
12001 S. Cicero Ave
Alsip, IL 60803

11/16/2012, 10:00 a.m.
Worth Park District
11500 S. Beloit Ave
Worth, IL 60482

11/26/2012, 2:00 p.m.
Park Dist of La Grange
536 East Avenue
La Grange, IL 60525

11/29/2012, 2:00 p.m.
Jedi's Garden Restaurant
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Steppenwolf Theatre Company's Critically Acclaimed Hit, Good People, Adds One Week of Performances

By popular demand, Steppenwolf Theatre Company extends the subversively funny hit season opener, Good People by Pulitzer Prize-winner David Lindsay-Abaire, directed by ensemble member K. Todd Freeman. This "Four Star" (Chicago Tribune), "Highly Recommended" (Chicago-Sun-Times) production continues for five additional performances, through November 17, with the original cast of six intact. Tickets to the additional performances of Good People ($20 – $86) go on sale today, October 17 at 11am through Audience Services (1650 N Halsted), at 312-335-1650 or at steppenwolf.org.

Added performances of Good People include:
Wednesday, November 14 at 7:30pm
Thursday, November 15 at 7:30pm
Friday, November 16 at 7:30pm
Saturday, November 17 at 3pm and 7:30pm (closing)

When Margie Walsh loses her job at a South Boston dollar store, she reaches out to old flame Mike, a Southie boy who left the neighborhood and became a successful doctor. Margie's attempt to hit Mike up for a job takes on a threatening cast when she realizes the power a secret from Mike's past holds. From Pulitzer Prize-winner David Lindsay-Abaire, Good People looks at the dangerous consequences of choosing to hold on to the past or leaving it behind.

The cast of Good People features ensemble members Alana Arenas, Mariann Mayberry and Molly Regan with Will Allan, Keith Kupferer and Lusia Strus. The production team includes: Walt Spangler (scenic design), Nan Cibula-Jenkins (costume design), Kevin Rigdon (lighting design), and Rob Milhurn and Michael Bodeen (sound design and original music). Additional credits include: Erica Daniels (casting), Christine D. Freeburg (stage manager) and Michelle Medvin (assistant stage manager).

Good People is supported by Corporate Presenting Sponsor United Airlines and Corporate Production Sponsor Bank of America.

Tickets to Good People ($20 – $86) are on sale through Audience Services (1650 N Halsted St), 312-335-1650 and steppenwolf.org. 20 for $20: twenty $20 tickets are available through Audience Services beginning at 11am on the day of each performance (1pm for Sunday performances). Rush Tickets: half-price rush tickets are available one hour before each show. Student Discounts: a limited number of $15 student tickets are available online using promo code PEOPLE15.

Steppenwolf Theatre Company is America's longest standing, most distinguished ensemble theater, producing nearly 700 performances and events annually in its three Chicago theater spaces—the 515-seat Downstairs Theatre, the 299-seat Upstairs Theatre and the 80-seat Garage Theatre. Formed in 1976 by a collective of actors, Steppenwolf has grown into an ensemble of 43 actors, writers and directors. Artistic programming at Steppenwolf includes a five-play Subscription Season, a two-play Steppenwolf for Young Adults season and three repertory series: First Look Repertory of New Work, Garage Rep and Next Up. While firmly grounded in the Chicago community, nearly 40 original Steppenwolf productions have enjoyed success both nationally and internationally, including Off-Broadway, Broadway, London, Sydney and Dublin. Steppenwolf has the distinction of being the only theater to receive the National Medal of Arts, in addition to numerous other prestigious honors including an Illinois Arts Legend Award and nine Tony Awards. Martha Lavey is the Artistic Director and David Hawkanson is the Executive Director. Nora Daley is Chair of Steppenwolf's Board of Trustees. For additional information, visit steppenwolf.org, facebook.com/steppenwolftheatre and twitter.com/steppenwolfthtr.

De La Salle Institute to Host Three Open Houses

De La Salle Institute has three upcoming open houses for seventh and eighth grade students and their families.

The remaining open house for young women will take place on November 28 from 6 – 8 pm at De La Salle's Lourdes Hall Campus located at 1040 W. 32nd Place in Chicago.

The open houses for young men will take place on November 14 from 6 – 8 pm and December 1 from 10 am – noon at De La Salle's Institute Campus located at 3434 S. Michigan Ave. in Chicago.

For more information, please contact De La Salle's Director of Admissions, Chuck Kuhn, at 312-842-7355 ext. 150 or kuhnc@dls.org.

De La Salle Institute is an independent Catholic secondary school rooted in the tradition of Christian Education begun by St. John Baptist de La Salle. Founded in 1889, its mission has been, and is, to foster a desire for excellence in education. Young people from a variety of ethnic and economic backgrounds are given the opportunity to fully develop their abilities so they may be active, contributing members of our complex changing society.

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Bonnie Metzgar to step down as AFT Artistic Director National search underway for successor

The Board of Directors of About Face Theatre Company has announced that Artistic Director Bonnie Metzgar will be stepping down at the end of the theatre's 2012/13 Season.

"I came to About Face with three goals, to create financial stability in uncertain economic times, build a vibrant core of Artistic Associates and lead the organization through a strategic plan to develop a 3-5 year vision for the company.

I am so proud that during my tenure at the helm of this important artistic institution that I accomplished these goals," comments Metzgar. " With a terrific Board of Directors, artistic associates and staff, About Face is positioned perfectly for ongoing success in one of the greatest theater cities in the world," added Metzgar.

The About Face Theatre Board of Directors has formed a Search Committee to lead to national search for AFT's next Artistic Director, as well as a Transition Committee to oversee the artistic leadership transition.

About Face Theatre prepares for an exciting new phase which will allow us to continue to thrive and create exceptional, innovative and adventurous plays to advance the dialogue on gender and sexual identify, and to challenge and entertain audiences in Chicago, across the nation and around the world.

Since its founding in 1995, About Face Theatre has developed and produced over 50 new productions, including 45 world premiers by emerging and nationally recognized theater artists. AFT has also received numerous awards, including a Pulitzer Prize for Drama, the Tony Award for Best Play, 13 Joseph Jefferson Awards and 14 After Dark Awards.

About Face Theatre (Bonnie Metzgar, Artistic Director: Jason L. Held, Executive Director) is one of Chicago's most acclaimed theatre companies, and is a national leader in the development of new work exploring gender and sexual identity. Since its founding by Kyle Hall and Eric Rosen in 1995, the company has premiered more than 45 world premieres by writers and directors who have been recognized with several Tony Awards, The Pulitzer Prize for Drama, The MacArthur Fellowship and dozens of Joseph Jefferson Awards.

Red Theatre presents Bertolt Brecht's Schweyk in the Second World War

by Annette Dixon

This particular play is very humorous! Yes, the contents is about a serious event in history, but Bertolt Brecht's musical survival guide for oppression and tyranny as told through Schweyk and his hilarious travels throughout Europe and Russia is just plain funny.

If you are in a quandary, then by all means see this production of a musical and comedic journey during World War II. It takes in some inside plots such as stealing a dog for the Gestapo, while singing songs to barmaids.

Schweyk is directed by Aaron Sawyer and original music by Nicholas Davio and Mike Evans. You will come out of this play laughing and talking and commiserating with the actors.

You can critique this play for yourself at Stage 773 on 1215 W. Belmont Ave. Now until November 11th, performances will be $14 for seniors, students, and groups: call 773-327-5252 or visit us on-line at www.stage773.com for more information.

Pictured L. to R.: Matthew Cucrowski, Yvonne Ambrose, Ken Evans

Palos Village Players presents 2012 season closer Rehearsal For Death

The Palos Village Players will end their 2012 season with the production of George Batson's mystery/comedy REHEARSAL FOR DEATH at 7:30 PM on November 9,10,16 and 17 and at 2:00 PM on Sunday November 11 in the Palos Park Recreation Center, 8901 W. 123rd Street. The play takes place in the era before television in a small midwestern town. The "Rough Rapids Drama Group" is rehearsing a play starring "has been" actress Stella Carlisle, played by Orland Park actress Molly Quinn.

A letter arrives at the theater threatening dire consequences if the play continues. The cast, which includes the local gossip columnist, a theater owner, the ingénue and her financé, the town busybody, a smart-aleck teen and the show's stalwart director, all decide to do the play anyway. During a rehearsal a gun goes off and one of the cast is discovered to be dead. This is a whodunit which will keep you laughing and guessing. Others in the cast include Russell Egan and Matt Cukrowski (Chicago), Yvonne Ambrose (Frankfort), Ken Evans (Oak Forest), Jim Sharp and Matthew Walsh (Orland Park) Joyce Eddy (Palos Heights) and Bruce Fredrick, Lisa Giovenco Solomon and Denise M. Wargowsky of Tinley Park. The show is directed by Michael Gandy of Mokena. His assistant director is Ellen Micotto of Orland Park.

Ticket prices are $15 for adults and $12 for seniors/students and can be purchased at the door or reserved in advance by calling 1-877-PVP-TIXS. For information on-line go to www.palosvillageplayers.com. There is also a brunch/theater ticket option for the Sunday matinee available at Hackney's Restaurant, 123rd and LaGrange Road. Call Hackney's at 448-8300

Last Chance to see The Book Thief

by Annette Dixon

An extraordinary production team working together to make an outstanding play from an outstanding must read novel, created the play The Book Thief at Steppenwolf Theatre.

Leisel Meminger is a young girl struggling to survive in Nazi Germany. Unlike so many plays about the Holocaust, this one portrays the humanistic approach to the embitterment of the Nazi regime in Germany in the late 1930's and into the early 40's. It is so real and very sad, yet the courage of one person and how one can make a difference in a person's life over shadows any amount of sadness one shall endure.

The cast features actor, Francis Guinan (Him), acting as narrator keeping the flow of the play together. Rae Gray plays (Liesal), watch for this rising star in the future. Dennis William Grimes, (Man, Steiner, Hitler, Nazi, Herr Mosel, Officer) made his debut at Steppenwolf. Patrick Andrew, (Max) has been a regular around town with various theater productions. Amy J. Carle plays Rosa Hubermann, she brings us the surprise gift, just as she is gifted actor. Thanks to Clancy McCartney as Rudy and Rob Fagin as the (Grave digger, Bonfire Nazi, Nazi Officer, Man 2, Soldier, Hans Jr.: Actor Mark Ulrich (Hans Hubermann), Andy Monson, (Tommy, Man1, Walter): Nicole Wiesner, (Ilsa, Max's Mother, Woman): and also the Ensemble Members Nikki Klix, Ian Knox, Anthony Jon LeSage. The last date of the play is Sunday, November 11, 2012 at 3:00 pm.

For tickets to The Book Thief call 312-335-1650 or visit steppenwolf.org.

Giordano Dance Chicago celebrates 50 years

Giordano Dance Chicago moved to a new rehearsal and teaching facility as a resident company partnered with the American Rhythm Center.

Giordano Dance Chicago's is now rehearsing and teaching at the Fine Arts Building. American Rhythm Center's winter session begins January 7th through March 7, 2013. Giordano Dance Chicago celebrates their 50 years by launching a new year of touring, performances and innovation.

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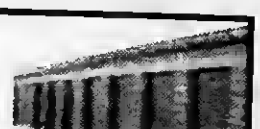

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Protect Yourself from 2013 Tax Hikes with 2012 Tax Planning

3 Tips for Taking Advantage of This Year's Lower Tax Rates

Income taxes are going up next year, and not just for those who earn more than $200,000 a year.

"Taxes are likely to be higher for everyone" says financial planner Rick Rodgers, author of The New Three-Legged Stool: A Tax Efficient Approach To Retirement Planning (www.RodgersSpeaks.com).

"We all know about the expiring Bush tax cuts, which may or may not be extended for everyone or just some," he says. "There are also new taxes that were part of the healthcare reform law passed in 2010: the expiring payroll tax cut; the alternative minimum tax that already expired in 2011, and many other provisions that have expired or will expire at year end."

Nearly everyone should prepare to pay more, Rodgers says.

The good news is you still have time to take advantage of 2012 tax rates, which may turn out to be the lowest we will see in some time. Rodgers offers these strategies that can be implemented before the end of 2012:

• Roth Conversion - No one knows for sure what will happen to the tax code next year, which is why a Roth conversion is one of the best tax-planning strategies available. Converting a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA creates a taxable event in 2012. All future earnings in the account will be tax-free, as long as you wait five years and are age 59½ or older when you take withdrawals. The biggest advantage to the Roth conversion strategy is the ability to "undo" the transaction as late as Oct. 15, 2013. Should the new Congress pass a major tax reform bill next year that lowers tax rates across the board, you can put the money back into your IRA. It will be like the transaction never happened.

• Harvest capital gains - Harvesting gains is similar to harvesting losses. Sell appreciated securities that you've held for at least 12 months to realize the long-term gain for tax purposes. You can immediately repurchase the same asset because there is no wash sale rule for realizing gains. This allows you to pay tax on the gain in 2012, when rates are low, and establish a new cost basis in the asset to minimize increased gains that may be taxed at higher rates. This strategy should appeal to anyone in the 15-percent tax bracket because capital gains are taxed at zero and may jump to 8 to 10 percent in 2013 if the tax cuts expire. The strategy is also appealing to anyone subject to the Medicare surtax. If the current tax laws expire, the tax rate on long-term capital gains will jump from 15 percent to 23.8 percent (21.8 percent for assets held more than five years).

• Pay medical expenses - Anyone who normally itemizes medical expenses on their tax return should accelerate those expenses into 2012 if they can. Medical expenses are deductible only if they exceed 7½ percent of adjusted gross income (AGI). This means if your AGI is $50,000, you can deduct only medical expenses over $3,750. Next year the threshold jumps to 10 percent of AGI. Pay your January medical insurance premium in December to move this deduction to 2012. Any routine eye exams or dental visits should be moved up to December. Paying with a credit card would give you the deduction this year and delay the actual payment until 2013.

Rodgers warns that a common mistake is to wait and see what happens. It has not been uncommon for Congress to make significant changes to the tax code late in December, leaving taxpayers little time to react. He advises a diversified approach to tax planning. Make a partial Roth conversion, harvest some capital gains but don't wait until it's too late to do anything about rising taxes.

Take a proactive approach to tax planning this year to cushion any fall from the fiscal cliff.

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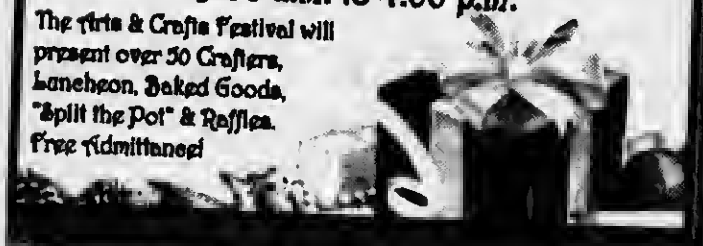

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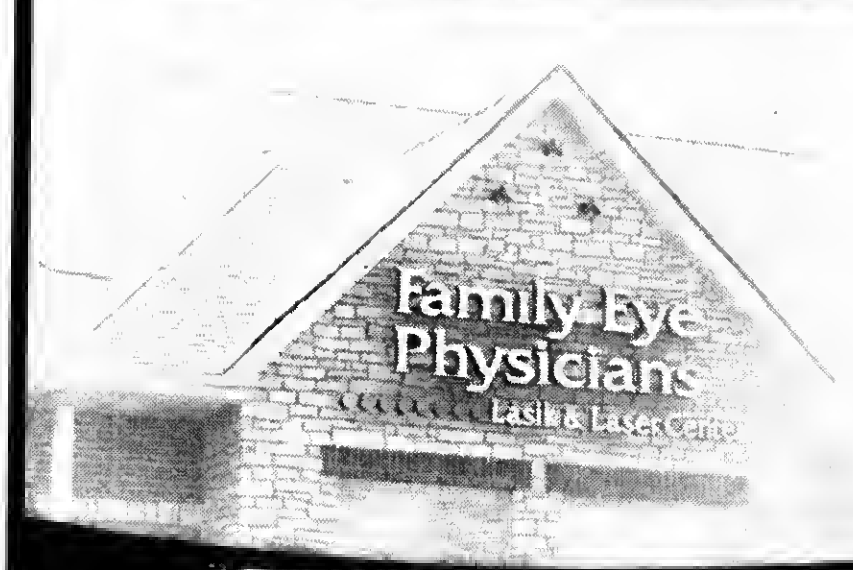

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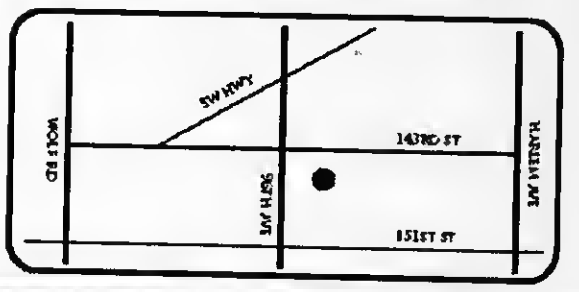

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SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 39 | Number 10 | November 20, 2012

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Saving on "Compliance Codes" in Hickory Hills

by Jan Glaz

Building Commissioner John Moirano and the city council discussed the importance of appointing Robert Schmidt as a Code Compliance Inspector at the November 8th Hickory Hills City Council Meeting. Moirano explained that the city pays outside sources up to $1000 or more to identify an ever growing number of energy and structural codes that must meet building standards to pass compliance inspections. Moirano suggested that Robert Schmidt be hired by the city as he is extremely qualified to work with building inspectors, lives in Hickory Hills, and would save the city hundreds of dollars. His appointment will be scheduled for full board approval in the near future.

Mayor Howley was more than proud to present an award of recognition from the City of Hickory Hills to the Stagg Unified Special Olympic Volleyball team, who won their second state championship in three years. The Chargers defeated S.O.A.R. (Bloomington) and S.S.S.R.A (Frankfort) in the medal round in Rockford. The Chargers overcame a 9 point deficit to win the final game 25-23. Unified partners include Victoria Lombardo, Katie Chodora, Cassie Newman, Jinnie Christensen and Carrie Sinclair. The athletes include Morgan Mitchell, Josh Williams, Johnny Damme, Ola Khilfeh, Rakina Whitbey, Bobby Shamasko and Beea Gehle. The team was coached by Mr.Tom Syska, Mr. Dave Henry, Ms.Sharon Chorzempa and Mrs. Abby Degliomini.

New in Town: Alderman Waight announced the arrival of four businesses: City Carbonic Gas has been in business for 50 years and is in the process of buying a building located at 7709 W. 98th Street; TCC Wireless-T. Mobile, 7600 W. 95th Street, Crisp N Clean, a drop off-pick up dry cleaners, located at 7605 W. 95th Street; and Oxford Insurance, 7616 W. 95th Street.

Justice Welcomes a Certified Women's Business Enterprise

by Jan Glaz

On November 12th the city council carried a motion introduced by Trustee Ed Rusch Jr. for the Business License of Central States Manufacturing and Sales Corporation,- wholesalers of plumbing, heating and air conditioning (HVAC) supplies, doing business at 8008 W. 84th Street, in Justice, (877) 305-4267. Rusch proudly commented, "Here is, once again, where we're able to have a business locate in our community from another community." The business, hailing from Summit,Illinois, originated in the 1900's, Philip Gollner, a plumbing contractor, married Lillie Reddel. Together, in the early 1920's, they started a plumbing supply business at 1838 W. 33rd St. in Chicago Illinois. Philip Gollner, Lillie's husband, died in August of 1946. In 1962 the company purchased a building, the current location, at 5539 S. Archer Rd. Summit, Illinois. Central States Manufacturing and Sales Corporation DBA: Argo Summit Supply Company has been certified as a Women's Business Enterprise (WBE) in the City of Chicago, Cook County, and the State of Illinois. Lillian Gollner couldn't have foreseen that her plumbing company would be passed down through the women in her family to its current fourth generation.

Trustee Rusch also introduced a motion granted by the Board of Trustees for the business license of J & R Amusement Company, 8404 Wilmette Avenue, Darien, Illinois; a vending machine operation serving Chicagoland for over 48 years. The Company will be supplying individuals and businesses looking to spice up the atmosphere in the Village of Justice. Some of their offerings: Internet juke boxes, Touch screens, Pinball machines, Video games, Pool tables, Darts, Golf, Gun games and more.

Of Interest: An Ordinance Fixing the Compensation for the Offices of Village President and Local Liquor Control Commissioner for the Terms of Office Commencing in 2013 met with approval after an amendment presented by Trustee Rusch. Rusch explained he would like to amend the specified dollar amounts of $15,000 for Mayor and $4200 for Liquor Commissioner to $16,000 for Mayor's compensation and $3,000 for Local Liquor Control Commissioner. "I think the compensation of $16,000 is not adequate but based on what as a village we might be able to afford that's significant, and the $3000? The reason I elected to put forth the amendment to bring that down is, unless there are hearings, it's only a matter of signing liquor licenses and having someone finger printed for a liquor license."

Oak Lawn Officials Argue Over Additional Alley Paving

by Matt Mayer

Officials at the Oak Lawn Board of Trustees meeting discussed adding an additional alley onto the original 2012 Alley Program, which was approved for the paving of 12 alleys. The additional alley slated to be added is between 53rd Court and 54th Avenue between 93rd and 94th Streets. Trustee Bob Streit alleged that Trustee Alex Olejniczak (D-2) had forcefully asked village manager Larry Deetjen to add a 13th alley to the Alley Repair Program.

At a previous meeting officials voted 4 to 3 to table the matter until the next board meeting on Nov. 27, with Mayor Dave Heilmann casting the deciding vote. Streit said a lack of policy documents provided to the Public Works Committee was why he made the motion to table the matter. Olejniczak said the alley would not be paved this year due to the matter being tabled. Olejniczak named village officials who spoke at previous Public Works Committee meetings. Due to a violation of Roberts Rules of Order, Heilmann told Olejniczak several times that he was out of order. Trustee Carol Quinlan D-5 asked for Olejniczak to be removed from the meeting, however he remained until the end of the meeting.

Olejniczak asked Heilmann if he was going to use his power to tell him he was out of order and further censor him. The cost of the additional 13th alley is slated to be $125,000. The alley project should have gone through the Public Works Committee, said Streit. Other officials said at the Oct 23 board meeting that repairing the alley would constitute an "unauthorized expense". In the past projects have been added on if there was additional money available, said Olejniczak.

Streit said that Deetjen was pressured by Olejniczak to get the ally paved. No one person can demand and threaten that projects can be done and that's what was happening, said Streit.

Pictured on the left is Mrs. Koss after receiving her award. Pictured on the right is Mrs. Agnes Kashoske, a Guidance Counselor at St. Laurence, and Dr. Pallardy.

St. Laurence Holds Viking Award Ceremony

St. Laurence High School hosted an awards ceremony to honor several people for their outstanding service to the school. The recipients were Mr. James Roach '83, Dr. Thomas Pallardy, and Mrs. Cynthia Koss.

Mr. Roach received the Black and Gold Award, which recognizes individuals whose personal influence, acumen, or financial generosity have furthered the mission of St. Laurence. Dr. Pallardy was given the Laurence Award, which recognizes individuals who – through their contribution, service, and spirit – have significantly enhanced both the St. Laurence community and good name of the school. The Heart of St. Laurence Award, which is presented to individuals who have volunteered their time and talents to further the mission of St. Laurence, was given to Mrs. Koss. The recipients were given their awards in an all-school assembly, which was followed by a reception held in the school's Leadership Center.

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FAR SOUTH EDITION

Volume 10 | Number 22 | November 20, 2012

Oak Forest, Orland Park, Tinley Park

Tinley Park Honors World War II Veteran

by Jan Glaz

As part of the Veterans Commission Flag Program. the American Flag was flown over the Capital in Washington D.C. and at the Oak Park Avenue Train Station in honor of long time Tinley Park Resident. Robert Oehmen. a World War 11 Veteran and beloved community volunteer. who passed away on October 31st at the age of 89. On November 6th the family of Rohert Oehmen was reengnized at the Tinley Park Board of Trustees Meeting. Robert Oehmen had served in the Army's 183rd Anti-Aircraft Artillery Unit from 1943 to 1946 in the Pacific and had stormed the beach at Normandy. Hundreds of mourners attended the fimeral held at Vandenberg Funeral Home; the Illinois Patriot Guards flanked the entrances, holding flags. Also present. where Oehmen volunteered for over 40 years. the American Legion Post 615 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2791. The Flag that had flown over the United States Capital and the Tinley Park Train Station was accepted by Oehmen's wife Charline. His immediate family consists of 11 children. 25 grandchildren. and 40 great-grandchildren and two great-great- grandchildren.

Noteworthy: The city council ratified a ninety (90) day temporary license to perform café services at the 80th Avenue Metra Station to Diana Petrauskis, proprietor of Diana's Kitchen. The Village is in the final stages of completing the second phase of the 80th Avenue Metra Station redevelopment. The project includes a commercial kitchen and expanded counter space to meet the needs of over 3,000 daily commuters as well as residents. The village staff had interviewed three potential vendors and upon review of the Finance Committee Chair it was recommended that the temporary license be issued to Diana's Kitchen. The café would provide service between the hours of 5:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. Monday through Friday until January 17. 2013.

From left to right: Kelly Calcagno (Orland Park). Samantha Gillooley (Orland Hills). and Mark Cachey (Tinley Park) are separating seeds from the stems.

CJB National Junior Honor Society Are Stewards for the Environment

Eighth grade members of the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) at Cardinal Joseph Bernardin Catholic School (CJB) recently took part in a community service project that benefited the Orland Grasslands. The CJB students worked on the annual "seed cleaning" project. After listening to the demonstration conducted by an Orland Grassland Volunteer. the NJHS were given the necessary tools and got to work.

Students used a handmade screen to sift the seeds from the wild quinine plant. It was a task that required patience and steady hands. The CJB 8th graders carefully removed the seeds by hand and safely stnred them for replanting in the spring. Upon completing the project, Seth Luthin (Orland Park). stated

"This service project made me more aware of my environment and the ways I can preserve and protect it."

The Orland Grassland is a 960 acre preserve bordered by Lagrange Rd., 167th. 104th and 179th Streets. The seed cleaning project is small part of the overall prairie restoration initiative. It is a large project in which volunteers are always needed. CJB 8th grader. Frank Baffoe (Orland Park), stated "The Orland Grassland's project helps with replanting the seeds of endangered plants to preserve them. I felt happy giving back to the community."

Giving back to the community, a commitment to service is one of the valued tenants of the CJB National Junior Honor Society. Members of NJHS, as well as the whole CJB student body participate in a variety of service projects throughout the year.

For additional information about Cardinal Joseph Bernardin Catholic School. please contact Mrs. Cynthia Devlin at 708-403-6525 or visit www.cardinaljbschool.com.

Orland Park: Mercedes-Benz Acquires New Franchises and Employees

by Jan Glaz

The Orland Park City Council approved a Sales Tax Sharing Agreement with Mercedes Benz of Orland Park and authorized the Village President to execute the necessary legal agreement on November 5th. The dealership will be expanding and renovating to include two new additional franchises (Smart Car & Mercedes-Benz Commercial Van) in the former-BMW facility located at 8470 W. 159th Street. Both the BMW and Mercedes-Benz properties are owned/controlled by the same business entity.

The proposed renovation project includes both exterior and interior renovations of the existing huilding. The renovation cost of the facility is estimated tn be around $1 million. Job projections total 16 additional employees. with an estimated average payroll of approximately $700.000. Tlie Village Staff recommended a $453,690 total maximum incentive - 50% of estimated construction cost of project; 50/50 share of new incremental sales taxes above the base amount: 5-year agreement w/ additional 5-year renewal option if full incentive has still nnt been reached. Renewal must be approved by the Village Board. Sales Tax Base - Average of previous three years - $264,532. Occupancy by both franchises is schednled for April 2013.

Bright Ideas have the Best Ideas: Before the meeting adjourned, the Board of Trustees waived the bid process to accept the proposal from Bright Ideas Inc. for the installation. maintenance, takedown and stnrage of Village Owned hnliday displays along Ravinia Avenue and at Centennial Park for the 2012/2013 holiday season at a cost not to exceed $22,941.00. It was reported that Bright Ideas provides the animated lights and music on the trees along Fun Drive at no cost to the village and in 2009; Bright Ideas replaced all of the lighted snowflakes along LaGrange Road at no cost to the village. In addition all of the decorations are stored at Bright Ideas. The services that Bright Ideas provides are only for village-owned holiday displays. The Village Staff researched other companies in anticipation of a new bid fnr the installation, maintenance, storage, set up and removal services for the decorations the Village owns, but was unable to find any local companies that will take-on products that they did not sell to the customer. Several other companies that were contacted only sell products, but do not provide any other services.

Much Ado about Nothing at Oak Forest Meeting

by Jan Glaz

Nothing was amiss acenrding to Aldermen. the Mayor, and Attorney Scott F. Uhler on November 13th at the Oak Forest City Counell Meeting. A memorandum regarding the residency status of 5th Ward Alderman Dan Ensing was deemed open for public release by Uhler and placed on the agenda under new business. Residents had questioned the legality of Ensign's relocating outside of his ward and felt he claimed residency in the ward for the purpose of his elective office. Alderman Toland said. "I've been hearing rumblings about this for a long time and now the rumblings have been more like an earthquake." Mayor Kuspa stated that Ensing was not in violation of intent of abandonment. as the move was temporary. Alderman Simon commented. "It's legal for an Alderman to move out of his ward and possibly out of town. if he has intent to return." Scott Uhler clarified that under the information provided that this is the applying principle. Someone can be temporarily outside the city limits and remain a resident of the city. Alderman Ensign lives elsewhere while searching fnr a new home in the City, and in the 5th Ward.

Connecting Steps: Village Administrator Troy Ishler confirmed that contractnrs are on site and will begin a 12 block sidewalk project along Central Avenue. the estimated time for completion: within two weeks. Ishler noted that there was confusion regarding the amount of sidewalk and stated that the city is not actually constructing 12 blocks of continuous pavement but connecting separate sidewalks that when completed will run from 147th Street to 159th Street.

Befnre the meeting adjourned. it was reported that Oak Forest has been aecepting credit cards since 2007 and in an effort to reduce fees. staff requested propnsals for credit card processing. World Data Systems proposed the lowest fees of .05% of the payment amount plus $0.05 per transaction for processing transactions. The total annual savings estimate is $12.861, compared to the city's current agreement. An agreement with World Data Systems in Tinley Park. Illinois. to provide credit card processing services at an approximate cost of $8.145 met with full board approval.

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SOUTH SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 13 | Number 22 | November 20, 2012

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

Palos Park Jet Fuel Spill Caused by Corroded Pipe

by Matt Mayer

Patrick Hodgkins, a representative from Buckeye Partners, which operates the pipeline that erupted on Aug. 27, addressed the Palos Park Village Council meeting at the November Palos Park Village council meeting. The break resulted in the closure of a section of Route 83 in the village for five days. An estimated

32,000 gallons of jet fuel flowed into the soil and a ditch west of Highwood Drive as well as an estimated 250 to 500 gallons of fuel flowing into the Cal Sag canal.

Investigations, which were conducted by federal and state agencies, revealed that external corrosion caused the eruption. Testing after the eruption showed it was an isolated incident. Also extensive testing was conducted which revealed there were no other weak points to be concerned with, said Hodgins.

Typically we do testing in the section in which the eruption however as a result of what occurred the US Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration determined we were going to test 26 miles of the pipe line, not just that one section said Hodgins.

Commissioner D. Darryl Reed was concerned that the spilled material might have contained carcinogens. The village received a report near the end of October stating that there were fewer carcinogens in jet fuel than the gasoline that powers vehicles. The health and safety of the public was never above and beyond unhealthy exposure levels, said Hodgins.

At the present time all the results of the testing of the walls and floor of that ditch are in compliance with stringent state requirements. However we want to continue monitoring the area, said Hodgins. Commissioner Dan Polk said he was happy to hear that it was a corrosive pipe and not some other dastardly deed that caused this. The pipeline was up and running on Sept. 17.

Palos Heights to Create a Public Arts Commission

by Matt Mayer

The Palos Heights City Council at a recent city council meeting approved a request from Mayor Robert Straz to have the City Attorney Tom Brown draft an ordinance for the creation of a Public Arts Commission. A request to repeal Ordinance No. O-09-12 authorizing the re-insurance of general obligation library bonds in the amount of $1 million and providing for the payment and redemption prior to the maturity of the balance of general obligation bonds series 2003 was also approved.

A motion to authorize Straz to execute an agreement between the city and the office of the State Fire Marshal for the Illinois Elevator Safety Program to conform to section 140 of the Elevator Safety Act (225-ILCS312/140) as well as a request for the city attorney to draft an ordinance amending the city's code/ section 150.79(A)(1-5), technical standards for elevators, in compliance with the Illinois Elevation Safety Program was also approved.

A request to approve a proposal from Professional Design and Construction Document Services for the development of a passive park to be located at the southeast corner of Shadow Creek Drive and Ridgeland Avenue as well as a contract from Edward Dombrowski Landscape not to exceed $3,250.00 was also approved.

Pictured from left to right in photo TGF2G second grade students Nicoletta Drakes, Isabella Sides, Gabriela Iliev, and Johnny Davenport.

Koraes Elementary Enjoys a Thanksgiving Day Feast!

Koraes Elementary School, affiliated with SS Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Palos Hills, took part in a Thanksgiving Day Feast. The meal was prepared by the Koraes Parent Teacher Association (KPTA) and was enjoyed by the clergy, faculty and students. The lower grades made and wore pilgrim hats and American Indian headdresses.

Palos Park Recognizes Police Chief John Miller for Length of Service

by Matt Mayer

The Nov. 12 Palos Park Village Council meeting commenced with Mayor John Mahoney presenting a service award to Police Chief Joseph F. Miller for 20 years of service. A Public Works request to establish rate structure for the recreation department in which the resident rate will be determined at 25 percent over the cost of the program and the unincorporated Palos Park rate at 25 percent over the resident rate not to exceed $15 and the non-resident rate to be 50 percent over the resident rate not to exceed $20 was approved.

Other highlights: The village council discussed a recommendation from the Zonings Board of Appeals for a variation for a pool fence at 8802 W. 123rd Street an ordinance for the pool variation was approved as well as an agreement with Arcadia Publishing for a village centennial book was approved. The village staff along with the library staff will work together to obtain the necessary materials for the publication. A request from Hackney's Restaurant for a special event liquor license for their Annual Tree Lighting and Bazaar on Friday Dec. 7 from 6:30 P.M. to 10:00 p.m. was also approved

In other village news: the 2012 Palos Park Police / Palos Township community -wide food drive will continue until Christmas. Residents may drop off nonperishable holiday food donations at the Police Department at 8999 W. 123rd Street.

Friends of the Chicago Ridge Public Library

The Friends of the Chicago Ridge Public Library are hosting a Wine Tasting Fundraiser on Sunday, December 2nd from 3:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. Join us at the Avenue Wine Bar and Flower Shop, located at 10632 S. Cicero Ave., Oak Lawn for appetizers and wine tasting. Craig Nelson will entertain us with his Magic Show and raffle baskets will be available. Tickets are $15, and you must be 21 years of age or older. Call the library at 708-423-7753 for more information.

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B-MAC EDITION

Volume 6 | Number 22 | November 20, 2012

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Crestwood Dedicates Month to 'Pulmonary Hypertension Awareness'

by Jan Glaz

Mayor Stranczek and the Board of Trustees proclaimed November 2012 as the month for Pulmonary Hypertension Awareness at the Village of Crestwood Board of Trustees Meeting, November 15th. Mayor Pro Tem. Trustee James Fowler, standing in for Mayor Stranczek announced that the health of our community's people is the foundation for a caring and productive society, and our future rests with our ability to treat and find cures for individuals who are afflicted with illnesses including pulmonary hypertension (PH) which describes high blood pressure; intolerable blood pressure levels in the arteries between the lungs and heart.

It is reported that there is an estimated 30,000 patients and there are at least as many undiagnosed individuals. Without treatment, PH patients live and average of 2.8 years past diagnosis; with early diagnosis and effective treatment, the disorder can be managed for twenty years or more. The Pulmonary Hypertension Association is a nonprofit organization that seeks ways to prevent and cure pulmonary hypertension, and to provide hope for the PH Community through support, education, advocacy and awareness... "Help Find a Cure".

Newsworthy: The Board of Trustees directed the Village Attorney to prepare a Special Use Ordinance to permit an auto body repair, with an overnight car storage that must be inside the building located at 4611 West 136th Street; the city council also approved amending the Liquor Control Act Ordinance increasing Class "C" License to seven for Dottie's Café and Lou's Coffee and Wine Bar, a new business to be located in the Rose Plaza at 13600 S. Cicero.

Midlothian: "Bullish on Raising Revenue"

by Jan Glaz

Concerned with the financial health of the village, the City of Midlothian voted to withhold water to collect unpaid fines and fees on November 15th. "If somebody is in arrears with their water service, before the water is restored, they must be back in good graces with their water bill and in addition the village will check if they owe any other type of fees or fines to the city; they also must be paid before water is turned back on," said Mayor Stephens.

Officials also agreed to eke out additional revenue by raising the fees relative to Building Contractors; the fee increase does not affect homeowners. Stephens relayed that Midlothian's' fees are notoriously low compared with other communities. Parking Fines will raise $10.00; and an amendment passed regarding Boot-Tow whereas Midlothian will combine efforts with other communities and if a violator has multiple tickets, not just in Midlothian but in the other towns the city is cooperating with, they would become liable for a Boot-Tow. This will enhance both the city's cash flow and that of other communities.

One more plan to booster revenue was approved before the meeting adjourned. A Resolution to Authorize Execution of an Engagement Letter with Bernardi Securities, Authorizing Kurt Froelich to act as Bond Counsel and Ice Miller to Act as Disclosure Counsel. The resolution refers to bond selling/refinancing to increase cash flow for the village without increasing long term interest. Two options were presented: Taking the short term bond issue of 2010 - 2016 and restructure that debt with today's low interest rate, extending the term to 2026, a savings of about $2 million in the next four years; secondly, do the same with the 2009 - 2021 bond issue, a savings of about $350,000 up front, but additional interest on the long run, to 2026. Both extensions incorporate a 10 year call feature where at that time the village has the option to restructure again.

Alsip's Most Dangerous Sidewalks

by Jan Glaz

At the Village of Alsip Board of Trustees Meeting held on November 5th Mayor Patrick Kitching voiced his concerns regarding sidewalk's located in the TIF district along Pulaski. "The sidewalks are in extremely poor condition to the point of being dangerous," said Kitching. The Road and Sidewalk program is a TIF eligible expense, in the range of $30,000 maximum. A sidewalk smoothing, done by a saw process, will eliminate all the high spots on about 163 sidewalks. This procedure will be implemented in combination with replacement sidewalk. Mayor Kitching concluded, "This definitely has to be done before somebody gets hurt badly." Trustee McGreal will present the full package concerning the sidewalk project at a later meeting.

Trustee Ryan discussed water main replacement problems and related that the city is conducting a study comparing failure rates in the use of cast iron, ductile iron, concrete, and steel or asbestos sewer pipes. Ryan determined that other findings include corrosion as a major cause of water main breaks stating that 75% of all utilities have corrosive soils that can line the pipes. Corrosion is ranked the 7th highest reason for water main pipe failure in the United States.

Before the meeting adjourned, Trustee Shapiro announced that the Family Dollar Store on Pulaski is now under roof and the owners have intentions to complete the store by the end of November or beginning of December. Mayor Kitching added that the Family Dollar Store had planned to open by October 1st but the date was delayed due to the County. "It's going to be a really nice store, probably the nicest in their chain... it's all new and it's a stand alone," said the Mayor.

Personalized ornaments, mouse pads, picture frames, pet collars and bowls make great gifts for people or pets. This is just one of the many craft tables at the Sertoma Centre's Holiday Bazaar.

Sertoma Centre to Host a Holiday Shopping Extravaganza

Welcome neighboring schools, churches and organizations to stop in for some holiday cheer!

Sertoma Centre, Inc. invites you to attend Volunteer Services' Winter Wonderland, a Holiday Bazaar & Shopping Extravaganza, held on Friday, December 7, 2012 from 9 am -2 pm at 4343 W. 123rd Street in Alsip.

This holiday season Sertoma Centre welcomes neighboring schools, churches and area organizations to stop in for some holiday cheer! There will be tables of holiday gifts & handcrafted items. Rudolph's Reindeer Boutique will feature gift items which have been selected from Sertoma Centre's Good as New Thrift Store, including brand new houseware items. Shoppers will enjoy the main area of the bazaar which will include a large number of holiday craft booths, many hand-made by individuals with disabilities.

After a busy time shopping, stop by the North Pole Cafe to enjoy lunch, including: walking tacos, hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, drinks. Stop by Mrs. Clause's Bake Shop for a sweet treat along with coffee and hot chocolate.

Free Gift Wrapping - Buy an item at the Holiday Bazaar and bring it to the gift wrapping station where Elves will wrap it for you free of charge.

Invite your family and friends to Sertoma Centre, Inc., 4343 West 123rd Street, Alsip, IL for a one-of-a-kind shopping experience. Funds raised from this event support individuals with disabilities. To volunteer, donate or have questions contact head elf, Laura Gardner at 708-730-6211 or lgardner@sertomacentre.org.

For more information regarding Sertoma Centre, to schedule a tour, volunteer, or to make a donation, please contact Amy Chmura, Director of Advancement and Communications, (708)730-6206 or aehmura@sertomacentre.org, at Sertoma Centre, 4343 West 123rd Street, Alsip, IL 60803, www.sertomacentre.org.

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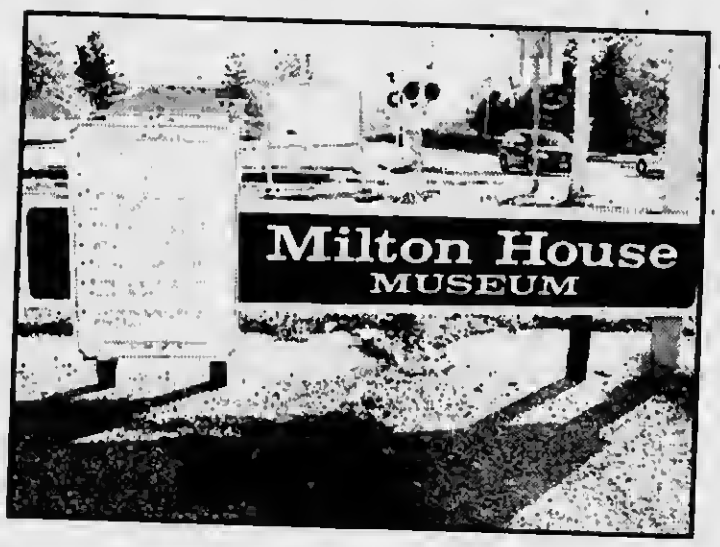
Visit Milton Wisconsin and Bring Back a Little History

by Annette Dixon

Milton is less than 10 miles from Janesville, Wisconsin on Highway 26/59. What is important about this town, let's just mention one big fact, it has history. The Milton House Museum in Milton is owned and operated by the Milton Historical Society and is an important Museum. It is recognized by the National Historic Landmark as one of 41 points where slaves where able to use this station in the Underground Railroad.

On the same site an 1844 Hexagonal Stagecoach Inn is the oldest grout home in the United States of America. There is also a 1837 pioneer log cabin, a blacksmith shop, buggy shed, stable, the Museum and more, all on this same site. There are tours from Memorial Day to Labor Day. It just so happened we were there at the right time in October and the weather was still warm.



We met a gentleman on the grounds of the Milton House Museum by the name of Tom Sveum, resident of Milton. He was not only a docent, but we found out later he was also on the Board of the Museum. Tom has been a docent since 2003 and gives about 90 volunteer tours a year. He is so unique, he even turned out the lights in the tunnel for us so we could imagine what the runaway slaves had to endure. Can you imagine placing your faith in one person to guide you to your next safe point in the journey of the underground railroad. Tom explained how Joseph Goodrich started his voyage from Alfred, New York with his wife Nancy Maxon to Milton, Wisconsin, to start a new frontier, built the log cabin in 1837 and the Hexagon Stagecoach Inn in 1844 and to help in the under-ground railroad. Mr. Goodrich had the insight to know that the railroads were making their way into Wisconsin for there was a beginning of importing and exporting taking place, especially farming products and tobacco.

The Milton House Photo by Toby Gold

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Goodrich's log cabin
Photo by Toby Gold

Prior to the Civil War Joseph helped slaves maintain safety in the basement of the Milton House. Runaways entered through a trap door in the cabin's floor to the dirt tunnel that let to the basement. Because Mr. Goodrich was not only a deacon in his church, but founder and developer of this community, he had a impeccable reputation, therefore protected it at all costs. Mr. Goodrich would not be able to know which guests were Abolitionists or non-Abolitionists, he had to devise a method of helping the slaves to escape. He cared for them in the basement by feeding them, giving them bedding in the basement for the next stage of their journey. If the alarm were sounded, the method of escape was to crawl through the tunnel which came up under the log cabin and they can get away down to Storrs Lake and up through Bower Lake to the Otter Creek Area and get out to Lake Koshonong and keep on their northward journey to Ft. Atkinson or where they were going next.

It is so remarkable to visit old quaint towns and realize the importance of their growth. This town has very little to offer except great restaurants and the Milton House Museum, a National Historic Landmark because of it's role in the Underground Railroad. What is also important is the establishment of Milton, Joseph Goodrich and his family members have accomplished by building the Hexagonal Stagecoach Inn. They also established a church, park, school, factory, oldest Grout Home in the United States and the log cabin built in 1837 with the underground tunnel to Milton House. They are closed for the winter but keep the dates of Memorial Day through Labor Day open in order to enjoy the town of Milton and visit the Milton Historical Society at www.miltonhouse.org or call at 608-868-7772.

Orland Township Youth & Family Services to Host an Evening of Pampering and Relaxation

The Orland Township Youth & Family Services department is hosting "Holiday Magic Stress Be Gone" on Wednesday, November 28, 2012 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the township building, 14807 S. Ravinia Avenue.

The event, an evening of pampering, relaxation, holiday shopping and food samplings, will feature local specialty shops, such as crafters, home businesses and boutiques, and service providers who will be offering mini massages and reflexology.

Vendors scheduled to attend include 31 Bags, Aged to Perfection, Bead Mamaina, Bella Roma, Cookie Lee jewelry, Dove Chocolate Discoveries, Holistic Happenings, Honey In.PURSEinators, Jamberry Nails, Mary Kay, Pampered Chef, Party-Lite, Paul Mitchell The School, Tastefully Simple, Wine with Me, Chik-fil-A, Osteria Ottimo, Orland Meat Market and many more.

The price of entrance is $5 and includes all services, refreshments, entertainment and a raffle, with all proceeds going directly to the Orland Township "Adopt-A-Family" program.

For additional information on "Holiday Magic Stress Be Gone", please call (708) 403-4222.

CXS Railroad Plans to Increase Trains Running through Evergreen Park

by Matt Mayer

Vice President of Public Affairs for CSX Railroad, Tom Livingston, addressed the Village Board at the Nov. 5 Evergreen Park Board of Trustees meeting and said that CSX Railroad had purchased the Grand Truck Western Railroad line, which runs from Chicago to a rail yard in Bedford Park along a rail line which crosses 95th and Troy and 93rd and Kedzie Avenues. The CSX acquisition will allow the freight trains to be expedited quicker from Chicago and will increase train travel from 4 trains to a maximum of 23 trains daily, said Livingston.

The acquisition plan must be presented to the Illinois Surface Transportation Board for approval in January. If the acquisition is approved, train traffic through out the village will increase by mid-2013, said Livingston.

Officials are concerned that the increased train traffic will obstruct the passageway of emergency vehicles. Mayor James Sexton said that the increased train traffic would make it more difficult for emergency vehicles to travel through the village and for ambulances to get to both Little Company of Mary Hospital and Advocate Christ Medical Center. Trustee Mark Phelan also voice concerns regarding emergency vehicles being able to pass through if a train is crossing a thoroughfare.

A train requires approximately four minutes to travel through the village. However if an emergency vehicle needed to cross the rail tracks, the train could be "run through" meaning the train would be allowed to, travel as fast as possible or approximately 45 to 40 mph. Also a call could be made to a train engineer to stop the train, said Livingston.

Sexton said being that 95th Street is a main thoroughfare and it can't be cut off. If a person in an ambulance is being rushed to either Little Company of Mary or Christ Hospital who is in bad shape, they wound not have time to wait to disconnect the train. The railroad tracks also cross 111th Street in Chicago's Mt.Greenwood area as well as 103rd Street, which borders the village near Utica Avenue.

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We have found that through the years of publishing the readers are interested in general information and also local happenings within their community. Therefore because we are fully electronic, we will not be accepting faxed or mailed news releases.

Village of Evergreen Park News

"A Dickens Christmas in Evergreen Park" 95th Street, from Western Avenue to Pulaski Rd, and Klein Park (97th and Homan). Featuring Strolling Carolers, Sounds of Christmas; visit Santa Claus and his live reindeer, sleigh rides.

Face Painting, special promotions from our merchants. 2pm - 7pm. Holiday Lighting Ceremony at 6pm at Klein Park. For more info, call (708) 229-3373.

The Office of Citizens Services.

Our Fall Newsletter is available, at www.evergreenpark-ill.com

MEALS ON WHEELS PROGRAM available to Evergreen Park residents (60+ unable to prepare their own meals). Meals delivered Mon-Fri. Call (708) 422-8776.

Recreation Department Happenings

"SOUNDS OF THE SEASON"

Concert by the City Lights Orchestra and Vocalists Sunday, December 9, 2012. From 7pm - 9pm at Most Holy Redeemer Church Admission is FREE, but you must have a ticket to gain entrance to the concert. Tickets are available at the Evergreen Park Recreation Department, 3450 W. 97th beginning on Monday, November 26, 2012.

Registration for Fall Programs is ONGOING. Many great programs available!

SWIM LESSON registration on Saturdays! Call the Recreation Department at (708) 229-3373.

The Youth Commission's Annual Coat Drive will run from now through November 30, 2012. You may drop off any new or clean used coats to the Community Center. Call (708) 229-3377 for more information.

Babysitting Class!

Taught by the American Academy of Pediatrics. Saturday, December 8, from 9am - 4pm at the Community Center. Cost $45 per student. Bring a bag lunch. Available for students age 12 or older. Only 10 students per class. Space held only for pre-paid participants. Register now at the Youth Commission, or call (708) 229-3377. Payment due by Wednesday, November 28.

Saturday, December 1, 13th Annual Kevin Dowling "Christmas Is For Kids" Toy Drive. 3pm to 8pm at Bourbon Street. Food, Drink, Entertainment, no cost with donation of new toy. For more information, visit www.kevindowlingscholarshipfund.com or call (773) 972-6264.

School District 124 News. . . Did You Know? SD 124 provides free screening of 3,4 and 5 year olds (not of kindergarten age) to assess development in Vision and Hearing / Speech and Language / Knowledge of Basic Concepts / Fine and Gross Motor Skills. Children eligible can qualify for special programs. For more information, call Jean Hector at (708) 423-0951, ext. 2140.

SAVE YOUR BOX-TOPS for Southeast Elementary School! Box top labels from many participating products (see www.btfe.com) are worth a dime a piece for participating schools; the monies collected are used for education materials. Please visit www.btfe.com for more information!

Holiday Music Show

Phil & Amy Switalski will present a Holiday Music Show at the Midlothian Public Library, 14701 S. Kenton Ave., Midlothian, IL, on Monday, December 3rd at 7 pm. They will perform holiday favorites and sing-a-longs for the entire family. Registration is highly suggested. Self-registration is available on the calendar of events page at www.midlothianlibrary.org or by calling 708-535-2027.

Palos Park Public Library

Children ages 4 and up are in invited to join in a festive event decorating gingerbread house ornaments and singing holiday songs at the Palos Park Public Library on Saturday, Dec. 15 at 11 a.m. Treats will also be served. The library is located at 12330 Forest Glen Blvd, Palos Park, IL Register for this event by calling the library at 708-448-1530.

Happy Thanksgiving

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10802 South Roberts Rd.
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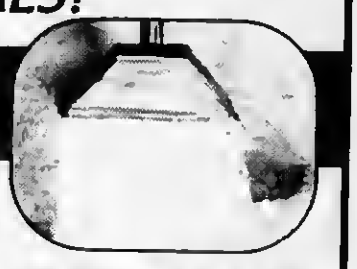

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Bridgeview Public Library

"Paranormal Activity comes to the Bridgeview Library, 7840 W. 79th St., Thursday, November 29th at 6:30 P.M. Bob Trzeciak, weekly host of "Paranormal Activity Radio" on WARG 88.9 FM, will be here to talk about Ghosts at the White House and the Christmas Tree Ship. A few lucky audience members can experience a palm reading. Please register at 708-458-2880 extension 105

The Bridgeview Library, 7840 W. 79th ST., will be accepting new toys in original packages and non-perishable food items in place of fines in conjunction with the Bridgeview Chamber of Commerce. The dates to participate at the library are 11/26—12/8. Each item you bring in will equal $1.00 in fines (limit $10.00). You may bring items in before this date but they will not count towards your fines. This applies to overdue fines only - not lost or damaged material. For more information call 708-458-2880

Join us at Bridgeview Library, 7840 W. 79th St., for Healthy Dining on a Dime—Holiday Edition on Tuesday, December 4th at 6:30 P.M. as we learn how to Eat Well for Less. In this popular, fast-paced program, Laura Bruzas will give us dozens of eco-friendly practical tips and insider secrets to save money big time whether eating in, dining out, or entertaining. No coupons required!

Please register for this program at 708-458-2880, extension 105.

Make-It & Take-It. A representative from Bella Florist will be at Bridgeview Library, 7840 W. 79th St., on Saturday, December 15th at 2:00 P.M. to help us make our own holiday wreaths. Since we will be using purchased materials there will be a fee of $20.00 per wreath. You must register for this event 708-458-2880, extension 105.

BLUE ISLAND PARK DISTRICT • WINTER HOLIDAY EVENTS

Santa Claus is Coming to Blue Island...

...in his Helicopter?

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Annette,

Please accept my congratulations as you celebrate the 39th anniversary of your publications "Village View Newspapers."

Your community is better for the service you provide it. Bringing a publications such as yours is done only by overcoming great challenges - and by possessing a great commitment to the mission.

Because of your commitment, your community maintains its heritage and therefore, its identity. The value of your service simply cannot be estimated except to describe it as immense and vital.

In serving your audience you strengthen our entire community. I honor your service and wish you all the best for a long and productive future.

Sincerely,
Maria Pappas
Cook County
Treasurer

De La Salle Institute to Host Two Open Houses

De La Salle Institute has two upcoming open houses for seventh and eighth grade students and their families.

The remaining open house for young women will take place on November 28 from 6 – 8 pm at De La Salle's Lourdes Hall Campus located at 1040 W. 32nd Place in Chicago.

The open house for young men will take place on December 1 from 10 am – noon at De La Salle's Institute Campus located at 3434 S. Michigan Ave. in Chicago.

For more information, please contact De La Salle's Director of Admissions, Chuck Kuhn, at 312-842-7355 ext. 150 or kuhnc@dls.org.

De La Salle Institute is an independent Catholic secondary school rooted in the tradition of Christian Education begun by St. John Baptist de La Salle. Founded in 1889, its mission has been, and is, to foster a desire for excellence in education. Young people from a variety of ethnic and economic backgrounds are given the opportunity to fully develop their abilities so they may be active, contributing members of our complex changing society.

Palos Township holds health services

The Palos Township Health Service will hold a cholesterol screening on November 26, 2012 from 8:30 AM until 12:30 PM.

The total cholesterol is $10 for residents and $15 for non-residents and tells only the total value. Fasting is preferred.

The cholesterol test tells the total value, the high density , the low density, the triglyceride value and the ratios as well as glucose values. Do not eat or drink after midnight the night before the test. A fee of $35 is charged for residents and $45 for non-residents.

A hemoglobin A I C test can also be performed for diabetics which reflects average blood sugar levels over the previous three months. No fasting is required for this test. The fee is $10 for residents and $15 for non-residents. All fees are cash.

Call the Health Service to schedule an appointment at 708- 598-2441. All screenings are done at Palos Township , 10802 S. Roberts Road in Palos Hills .

Moraine Valley promotes events

November 30

Moraine Valley Jazz Ensemble Holiday Concert with Doug Scharf, Trumpet and Mona Jethmalani, Vocalist, 7:30 p.m. at Dorothy Menker Theater.

Tickets are $12 Adults; $10 Seniors/Students

The Moraine Valley Jazz Ensemble is pleased to welcome trumpeter Doug Scharf and vocalist Mona Jethmalani for an evening of swinging jazz classics and holiday selections.

December. 2

Moraine Chorale and Chamber Singers. "Merry Christmas Music" 7:30 p.m. at Dorothy Menker Theater.

Tickets are $12 General Public/$10 Seniors/ Students

Nicholas Thomas conducts the Moraine Chorale, Chamber Singers and Instrumental Ensemble. The concert will feature a variety of traditional and contemporary Christmas music to get you into the holiday spirit. Tickets are selling fast!

December 3

Moraine Valley Concert Band. "Christmas Music and More". 3 p.m. at Dorothy Menker Theater.

Tickets are $12 General Public/$10 Senior/ Students

Deck the halls with the merry sounds of the Concert Band as it performs toe-tapping marches, classic movie themes, holiday selections and much more. The band is directed by Douglass Bratt and hosted by WBBM radio personality Joe Collins.

December 6

Moraine Valley Percussion Ensemble. Holiday Concert. 7:30 p.m. at Dorothy Menker Theater.

Tickets are $12 General Public/$10 Senior/ Students.

Pa-rum pa pum-pum! Once again, it's time for the Percussion Ensemble holiday extravaganza! Join us for an evening of holiday music, as well as unique percussion arrangements of selections by Henry Mancini, Hans Zimmer, Bèla Fleck, and the Beatles.

December 10

Auditions for "Waiting for Lefty", 6-9 p.m. at John and Angeline Oremus Theater.

Contact Craig Rosen for details at (708) 974-5432 or rosen@morainevalley.edu

For tickets or information on any performance, contact the Box Office at (708) 974-5500, or visit morainevalley.edu/FPAC.

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A Holiday Twist On Takeout

(NAPSA)-Holiday entertaining doesn't have to mean the same old pigs in a blanket. Instead, take a note from the take-out menu for hors d'oeuvres that please a crowd, such as this recipe for Asian Pan-Fried Dumplings. Your guests will appreciate fare that's unique and this version may even be more healthful than the real thing. Just don't be surprised if someone asks where you ordered it!

Asian Pan-Fried Dumplings

Filling:

1/2 lb ground chicken

1/2 c finely chopped bok choy

1/4 c chopped green onion

1/2 tsp freshly grated ginger

1/4 tsp sugar

1/2 Tbsp soy sauce

1/2 tsp sesame oil

Dipping Sauce:

31/2 Tbsp soy sauce

2 tsp rice wine vinegar

1 tsp sesame oil

1 clove garlic, minced

1 tsp sugar

1 package store-bought dumpling or wonton wrappers (24-count or higher)

2 Tbsp Smart Balance(r) Omega Cooking Oil, divided

1/2 c water

Combine filling ingredients: set aside. For dipping sauce, stir together ingredients: set aside. Using a cookie cutter or tumbler as a guide, cut store-bought dumpling or wonton wrappers into 3 to 31/2-in circles. Spoon a scant tablespoon of filling into the center of each circle of dough. Fold the dough circle in half and pinch the edges together to seal. Pinch pleats into the sealed edge and return the dumpling to wax paper until ready to cook. To cook, heat 1 Tbsp of Smart Balance(r) Omega Cooking Oil in a 10-in nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Add 12 dumplings to the skillet. Cook for about 1 min or until the dumplings are golden brown on the bottom; do not turn the dumplings. Add 1/2 c of water to the skillet and cover it with a lid. Steam the dumplings for three minutes. Remove the lid and cook until the remaining water cooks away. Cook for an additional minute after water has evaporated but do not overbrown. Remove dumplings from skillet and keep warm. Repeat with remaining oil and remaining 12 dumplings. Serve the dumplings hot with dipping sauce.

Yield: 8 (3-dumpling, approx. 2-tsp dipping sauce) servings

Per serving: 135 calories, 7g protein, 11g carbohydrate, 7g fat, 1g saturated fat, 3.5g monounsaturated fat, 2g polyunsaturated fat, 0g trans fat, 35mg omega-3 fatty acids, 1,763mg omega-6 fatty acids, 27mg cholesterol, 583mg sodium, 1g fiber, 1g sugar

Stony Creek Clubhouse's Upcoming Events

Comedy Night

Laugh the night away on Wednesday, November 21st, as the Oak Lawn Park District's Stony Creek Clubhouse, 5850 W. 103rd St., presents a Comedy Night from 8:00-10:00 pm.

Come watch hilarious comedian Ken Severa along with our local host comedian, Fritz Gary Nothnagel. Sit back, enjoy some great food, and laugh your worries away.

Admission fee is $10. Participants must be 21 or older. A cash bar is available. Doors open at 7:00 pm. To reserve a seat or for more information please contact Mary Grana at 708-398-6284 or mgrana@olparks.com.

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Evergreen Park Library announces there programs

Evergreen Park High School Art Exhibition at the EP Library

Members of the community are invited to visit the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 S. Troy, in November/December as we showcase a variety of artwork from Evergreen Park High School students enrolled in the Studio Photography, Beginning Art, Introduction to Art, and Ceramics/Sculpture/Jewelry Design. For more information, call (708) 422-8522.

Pajamarama at the Evergreen Park Public Library

The Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 South Troy, invites grades 5 and under to wear their pajamas for special family story times on Monday, December 10 at 6:30 pm. Registration required. For more information, call (708) 422-8522.

Schools Out Movie Matinee at the library

All ages are invited to enjoy their school holiday at the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 South Troy, on Friday, November 23 and watch Brave [PG] on our big screen. Showtime begins at 1:30 p.m. and kids may bring their own snack

Peanuts Party!

On Saturday, November 24 at 3:00 pm at the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 S. Troy, children, grades 5 and under are invited to celebrate the birthday of Peanuts creator, Charles Schultz, watch a short Charlie Brown movie, make a Snoopy craft, and eat puppy chow. For more information, call (708) 422-8522.

Holiday Portraits

On Sunday, November 25 from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm, patrons are invited to schedule a holiday portrait sitting for their family in front of the fireplace in the library's beautiful festively decorated reading room. Participants will receive a professional digital image for your holiday cards! Sittings will be scheduled in 20 minute time increments on a first-come basis. Pets will be allowed between 9:00 am-noon, only. The cost is $20 sitting fee, payable at registration. Bring a 1GB (minimum) flash drive with you. Proceeds benefit the Evergreen Park Public Library Foundation. Credit cards accepted. For more information, call (708) 422-8522.

Kindred Spirits Book Discussion

On Wednesday, November 28 at 7:00 pm at the Error! Not a valid link., adults are invited to the Kindred Spirits book discussion of Unbroken by Laura

Hillenbrand. Copies of the book, including large print when available, can be checked out at the circulation desk one month prior to the discussion. For information, call or stop by the library, or visit evergreenparklibrary.org

Palos Township hosts brain games

Palos Township Health Service will host Brain Games presented by Arden Courts on November 27 from 9 to 11 AM at the Palos Township building, 10802 S. Roberts Road , Palos Hills. A light breakfast will be served. Please call the Health Service at 708-598-2441 to reserve a space.

Thinking of advertising?
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Principal Jim Antos (a Viet Nam Vet) and the men from Brother Rice are greeted by members of PFC Ted Stempien Post. Brother Rice donated 30 huge bags of clothing to be given to Homeless Veterans.

Clothing Drive for Homeless Vets Supported by Local High Schools

To prepare to honor Veterans on November 11th, PFC Ted Stempien Post 8821, Veterans of Foreign Wars held a clothing drive. "When we celebrate our service as we did on Veterans Day, we must remember that it is our duty to help our brothers and sisters, our comrades who have fallen on hard times," said Post Commander Mike DeRoss. "We honor the dead by serving the living."

The Post asked two Chicago High Schools to participate in the clothing drive. Brother Rice and Lane Tech High Schools both responded splendidly. Brother Rice collected a bus full of clothes and delivered the clothing to the Post. Lane Tech donated several car loads of clothing, much of which was delivered, by Post members, directly to Organizations that were giving immediate service to Homeless Vets. "Both Rice and Lane Tech were great," said Commander DeRoss. "When Principal Jim Antos and Principal Chris Dignam were asked to help they said 'yes!' without hesitation. The students at Rice and Lane may not know this, but, on some cold winter night that clothing they donated might well save a Homeless Veteran's life.

It's Santa Letter Time!
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The Southwest Symphony Orchestra Presents Its Celebrated Christmas Concert in Two Locations

The Southwest Symphony Orchestra, under the musical direction of David Crane, will present its most popular concert of the season in two locations.

Holiday Destinations will be held at St. Michael Parish, 14327 S. Highland, Orland Park, on Friday, November 30, at 7:30 p.m., and at St. Irenaeus, 78 Cherry Street, Park Forest, on Sunday, December 2, at 4:00 p.m. Experience the Spirit of Christmas when the SSO joins the St. Michael and St. Irenaeus Music Ministries, and Voices of the Valley, for an evening of Christmas favorites including the Hallelujah Chorus! St.Michael is under the direction of Gary Patin, and Ann Koranda is the Music Director of St. Irenaeus. Tickets arefrom $5 to $25 and can he purchased at the door; in advance by calling 708-802-0686; or online at www.southwestsymphony.com. Children 12 and under are free.

10th Annual Marian Catholic Madrigal Singers Dinner

The Marian Catholic Fine Arts Department is pleased to announce the 10th annual Christmas Madrigal Dinners. The Dinners will be held in the Marian Catholic High School Band Room on Friday, December 7 and Saturday, December 8, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. Seating hegins at 6:00 p.m.

For the price of admission, Marian Catholic provides dinner catered by Pepion's in Schererville, Ind., and a copy of the Madrigal Singers CD. The dinners will also feature comedy entertainment provided by Daniel Blewitt '14, as King; Anna Petrelli '13, as Queen; James Breslin '13, as Court Jester; Rebecca Hauser '15, as Serving Wench. Holiday music will showcase the Marian Catholic Madrigal Singers, Mr. Greg Bimm and the Marian Catholic Band Program will provide hrass and flute ensembles to add to the holiday atmosphere.

The Madrigal Dinner is a modern recreation of the holiday atmosphere of Elizabethan England. It was common practice for a lord and lady to invite 200 of their closest friends to spend the entire Twelve Days of Christmas with them, complete with feasting, drinking, song and entertainment.

Tickets are $25 and reservations must be made in advance. To order tickets or for further information, please contact Mrs. Michelle Howisen, Choral Director at 708-756-9442.

Tinley Park Park District announces classes

Classes and Events for November 22-28

Classes are not guaranteed to run. If you would like more information or to speak to someone about a specific class or event, please contact Matt Libs, Marketing Manager, at (708)342-4254.

Monday, November 26 - Candy Making with Professional Results: Working with confectionery chocolates isn't as hard as it looks, especially once you know a few secrets. Learn all you need to know to make luscious chocolate truffles, turtles and holiday-themed molded chocolate candies. Award winning pastry chef Lori Parrett will talk about the importance of choosing quality ingredients, differences among ingredients and unique flavor ideas to develop your own signature candies. This class is a demonstration and includes samples and recipes! This one-day event is from 7-8:15 p.m. at the Tony Bettenhausen Recreation Center, and the fee is $16 for residents and $21 for non-residents. Register prior to this class at the Rec Center, as space is limited.

- Line Dancing, Beginner and Intermediate: Come dance with Dee! This is a fun class for beginners as well as intermediate line dancers. This healthy, low-impact dance and exercise program is sure to he a hit! Come out and join us! This class meets Mondays, Nov. 26-Dec. 17 from 11:05 a.m.-12:15 p.m. at the Rec Center. Fee is $30 for residents and $39 for non-residents. Please register early as space is limited.

.Tuesday, November 27 - Winter Container Garden: Create a fabulous winter container garden to decorate your entrance way. Participants should bring their own special cuttings to add to the provided materials. Items could include dried grasses, dried hydrangeas, evergreen boughs, etc. Containers should be no more than 15" in diameter and be filled with dirt. Additional items will be provided. This one-day class will meet from 6:30-7:30 p.m. The fee is $20 for residents and $26 for non-residents. Register prior to class as space is limited.

Looking ahead...

Thursday, December 13 - The Winter Wonderette's at Pheasant Run: It's 1968 and Betty Jean has hired the Marvelous Wonderette's to entertain at Harper's Hardware Store. But, when Santa goes missing and the whole staff mistakenly gets fired on Christmas Eve, it's up to the singing sweethearts to put the Merry back in Christmas. This holiday musical full of classic 1960's hits including "Santa Baby", "Jingle Bell Rock", "It's a Marshmallow World" and more! A gourmet three-course lunch is included before the performance. This trip is $75 per person and is for all ages. Trip departs at 11 a.m. and arrives back at 4:45 p.m.

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Nathan Pacheco the voice showcases his new album

by Annette Dixon

Recently I had the privilege of hearing Nathan Pacheco at Harris Theatre for Music and Dance. He is one of the best singers I have heard and has a voice that shows his operatic greatness and now sings with his accompanist, Leo- Z.

With a new self titled Disney Pearl debut album, Nathan Pacheco is headlining a North American tour, which stopped in Chicago at Harris Theatre for Music and Dance recently. Like Andrea Boccelli and Josh Groban before him, Nathan Pacheco mastered the art of pop/classical crossover. With his techniques, Pacheco could go toe-to toe with the finest operatic tenors. But for Nathan his technique is a tool for conveying emotion. He sings feeling the words, and says that is all that counts for he sings songs that he selects, plus his own written songs, pop and classical crossover genre. Few voices can pull off such a feat,

but Nathan makes it look so easy and sounds beautiful.

For example from the opening track "Avatar," which he co-wrote shows his hand, warm passionate vocals conveying tales of love, hope and glory. "I love singing songs that are just beautiful," he says. "Some, like 'Avatar,' are completely pop and have nothing to do with opera. Others focus on the classical side of singing. There's no scientific formula, I just find great songs I can connect with." He has performed about 80 concerts throughout the U.S. Canada and Mexico and now lives in Nashville. He loves Chicago and hopes to be invited to Harris Theatre once again.

Robert Joffrey's Nutcracker Turns 25!

The Joffrey Ballet presents the Silver Anniversary of The Nutcracker At the Auditorium Theatre, December 7 - 27

"Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Robert Joffrey's Nutcracker, which has become the number one Nutcracker in America, is a huge milestone for the company," said Christopher Clinton Conway, Joffrey Ballet Executive Director. "Every year for the past quarter century, thousands of families have made a place for the Joffrey's Nutcracker in their holiday traditions, creating treasured memories that last a lifetime. In this day and age of uncertainty on so many levels, we need the warmth, beauty and magic that this ballet brings into our lives."

The Chicago Philharmonic, led by Joffrey Music Director Scott Speck, provides live accompaniment of the classic Tchaikovsky score for every performance. The full Joffrey company is joined onstage by 118 young dancers from the Chicagoland area dancing as Party Girls and Boys, Polichinelles (Mother Ginger's children), Battle Mice and Mounted Mice, Soldiers, Snow Tree Angels and Dolls and young vocalists from five different local children's choirs perform the choral parts from the magical Snow Scene, including singers from the Barrington Children's Choir, the Jones College Prep High School Treble Choir, the Lincoln Park Neighborhood Choir of Chicago Children's Choir, the Pro Musica Youth Chorus and the Providence-St. Mel School Choir. The choirs also delight audiences with popular seasonal selections in the Auditorium Theatre's main lobby one half-hour prior to curtain and during intermissions at every performance. Last year, Joffrey's Nutcracker was recognized with the Goldstar National Nutcracker Award (affectionately nicknamed "The Nutty") as the "Best Loved Nutcracker" in the United States.

Performance Schedule

The 25th Anniversary production schedule of Robert Joffrey's The Nutcracker is as follows: Friday, Dec. 7, 7 pm; Saturday, Dec. 8, 2 pm and 7 pm; Sunday, Dec. 9, 2 pm; Thursday, Dec. 13, 7 pm; Friday, Dec. 14, 7 pm; Saturday, Dec. 15, 2 pm and 7 pm; Sunday, Dec. 16, 2 pm and 7 pm; Thursday, Dec. 20, 2 pm and 7 pm; Friday, Dec. 21, 2 pm and 7 pm; Saturday, Dec. 22, 2 pm and 7 pm; Sunday, Dec. 23, 2 pm and 7 pm; Monday, Dec. 24, 2 pm; Wednesday, Dec. 26, 2 pm and 7 pm; and Thursday, Dec. 27 at 2 pm.

Pricing and Tickets

Single tickets, priced between $31 and $132, are available for purchase at The Joffrey Ballet's official Box Office located in the lobby of Joffrey Tower, 10 E. Randolph Street, as well as the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University box office, all Ticketmaster Ticket Centers, by telephone at (800) 982-2787 or online at www.ticketmaster.com

Sister Act Opens at the Audiorium Theatre

SISTER ACT is Broadway's feel-amazing musical comedy smash! The New York Post calls it "Ridiculously Fun," and audiences are jumping to their feet in total agreement! Featuring original music by 8-time Oscar® winner Alan Menken (Beauty and the Beast, The Little Mermaid, Little Shop of Horrors), SISTER ACT tells the story of Deloris Van Cartier, a wannabe diva whose life takes a surprising turn when she witnesses a crime and the cops hide her in the last place anyone would think to look—a convent! Under the suspicious watch of Mother Superior, Deloris helps her fellow sisters find their voices as she unexpectedly rediscovers her own. A sparkling tribute to the universal power of friendship, SISTER ACT is reason to rejoice!

Performance Schedule

Performances for SISTER ACT are as follows:

Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesdays at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. (no performance on Nov. 22)

Fridays at 7:30 p.m. (added 2 p.m. matinee on Nov. 23)

Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Sundays at 2 p.m.

Please note: performance schedule and ticket prices are subject to change.

Ticket Information

Individual tickets for SISTER ACT are $28-$103 and are on-sale now. A select number of premium seats are also available. Tickets are available at all Broadway In Chicago Box Offices (24 W. Randolph St., 151 W. Randolph St., 18 W. Monroe St. and 175 E. Chestnut St.), the Broadway In Chicago Ticket Kiosk at Water Tower Place (845 N. Michigan Ave.), the Broadway In Chicago Ticket Line at (800) 775-2000, all Ticketmaster retail locations (including Hot Tix and select Carson Pirie Scott, Coconuts and fye stores), and online at www.BroadwayInChicago.com. For groups of 15 or more, call (312) 977-1710. Tickets for groups of 15+ are on sale now.

Gentleman's Gentlemen Rule Take Command of the Stage at The Royal George

Tickets for the two-week, limited engagement of Gentleman's Rule, $39-$69, are now on sale at the Royal George box office, 1641 N. Halsted Street, by phone (312) 988-9000 and through Ticketmaster at Ticketmaster.com or (800) 745-3000.

The men of Gentleman's Rule have been working hard in the studio and on stage to prepare for the launch of their debut album, Act Accordingly, which will be released during the Royal George Theatre run. Their album will include music made popular by David Guetta, Bob Marley, Nelly, Stevie Wonder, Bruno Mars, B.o.B., Gavin DeGraw, Wild Cherry, One Republic, Peter Gabriel, Jake Owen, The Script, Outkast, plus 2 original songs.

Scheduled performances are:

Tuesday, November 20, 7:30pm

Wednesday, November 21, 2:00pm

Thursday, November 22, Thanksgiving, no show

Friday, November 23, 2:00pm and 8:00pm

Saturday, November 24, 5:00pm and 8:00pm

Sundays, November 25, 3:00pm and 7:00pm

All Seven Harry Potter Books in 70 Hilarious Minutes at the Broadway Playhouse

Broadway In Chicago is thrilled to announce that Starvox Entertainment and Potted Productions' hit off-Broadway show, Potted Potter: The Unauthorized Harry Experience – A Parody by Dan and Jeff, will play the Broadway Playhouse at Water Tower Place (175 East Chestnut) beginning Nov. 13, 2012.

A Critic's Pick by the New York Times, New York Magazine and Time Out London, the show won the prestigious 2012 Olivier Award nomination for Best Entertainment & Family Show; playing to sold-out houses worldwide.

Written and performed by former BBC Television hosts Daniel Clarkson and Jefferson Turner, the play takes on the ultimate challenge of "condensing," or "potting", all seven Harry Potter books into 70 madcap minutes, aided only by multiple costume changes, brilliant songs, ridiculous props and a generous helping of Hogwarts magic.

The show also invites audiences to engage with a real life game of Quidditch, but according to Clarkson and Turner's unique set of rules.

Whether you camped outside a bookstore for three days awaiting the release of the Deathly Hallows or you don't know the difference between a horcrux and a Hufflepuff, the comedy, magic and mayhem of POTTED POTTER makes for an entertaining and hilarious visit to the theatre. The fast-paced show, which has made audiences aged six to Dumbledore (who is very old indeed) roar with laughter all over the world, is perfect for the entire family.

The London critics raved too. Said the Daily Telegraph, "A fabulously funny parody...will tickle the funny bone of every age group." The N.Y. Times exclaims the show is "Breathless and...HILARIOUS! And the Associated Press proclaims the show a "HIT!"

The New York Post writes the show is "...a zany hoot!" while Time Magazine for Kids simply declares that Potted Potter is "...an AWESOME show!"

So what are you waiting for!? Now is the time for all good Potter fans to discover this hilarity for firsthand!

The performance schedule for POTTED POTTER is as follows:

Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesdays at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. (No matinee performances on Nov. 21)

Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. (No performance on Nov. 22)

Fridays at 7:30 p.m. (additional 2 p.m. matinee performance on Nov. 23)

Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Sundays at 2 p.m.

Please note performance schedule and ticket prices are subject to change.

Tickets for POTTED POTTER at the Broadway Playhouse at Water Tower Place range from $39.75-$69.75. A select number of premium seats are also available for many performances. Tickets are available now for groups of 15 or more by calling Broadway In Chicago Group Sales at (312) 977-1710. Tickets are available at all Broadway In Chicago Box Offices (24 W. Randolph St., 151 W. Randolph St., 18 W. Monroe St. and 175 E. Chestnut), the Broadway In Chicago Ticket Kiosk at Water Tower Place (845 N. Michigan Ave.), the Broadway In Chicago Ticket Line at (800) 775-2000, all Ticketmaster retail locations (including Hot Tix and select Carson Pirie Scott, Coconuts and fye stores), and online at www.BroadwayInChicago.com.

For more information, visit www.BroadwayInChicago.com or www.PottedPotter.com

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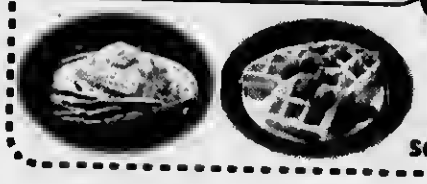

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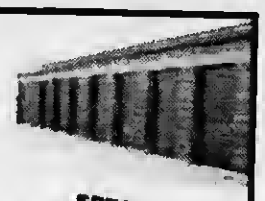

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Midlothian Public Library Children's Programs

All Ages Storytimes - Tuesdays at 10:30 (Dec. 4, 11 and 18th) - Come in out of the cold, and enjoy stories, songs and a craft! All ages with an adult; No registration required.

Gingerbread Party
Wednesday, Deeember 12 4:30-5:30

Run, run, run as fast as you can...to the library on Wednesday, December 12th for our gingerbread party! Join us for a seasonal celebration starring our favorite gingerbread friends. We'll read stories, play games, decorate cookies and make a craft! All are welcome: children ages 4 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required.

Let it Snow Storytime
Monday, December 17th 4:30-5:15 p.m

Join us to welcome winter with snowy fun, snowmen stories, songs and a craft. All ages; no registration required.

Midlothian Public Library is located at 14701 S. Kenton Ave., Midlothian, IL. For more information call (708)535-2027.

Are you have a Holiday Fest, or Christmas Party, New Year's Eve Party, call Linda 708-425-1910.

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Blueberry Coffee Cake Warms Those Chilly Mornings

(NAPSA)-When the temperature drops, a cinnamon-scented kitchen is especially warm and inviting. Savor the warmth every time you bake a Blueberry Coffee Cake. The classic recipe here, rich with sour cream and dense with luscious blueberries, is a blue-ribbon winner! And a bonus-because it's made with reduced-fat products, the calories are relatively low for a treat that tastes so indulgent.

Blueberries-fresh and frozen-are abundantly available through the winter months, so you can enjoy Blueberry Coffee Cake and all the blueberry dishes you love anytime you like. Find a large collection of recipes, nutrition information and more at www.LittleBlueDynamos.com.

Blueberry Coffee Cake

Topping:
1/3 cup rolled oats
1/3 cup flour
1/4 cup sugar
1 1/4 teaspoons cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon salt
3 tablespoons butter, softened

Cake:
1 2/3 cups flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
6 tablespoons butter, softened
1 cup sugar
2 large eggs
1/2 cup reduced-fat sour cream
1/4 cup fat-free half-and-half
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 cups fresh or frozen (not thawed) blueberries

Preheat oven to 350° F. Spray a 9 x 9-inch baking pan with nonstick spray. Make the topping: In a small bowl, stir oats, flour, sugar, cinnamon and salt. Add butter and blend until crumbly. Set aside. Make the cake batter: In a medium bowl, stir together flour, baking powder and salt; set aside. In a large mixing bowl, add butter and sugar; with an electric mixer, beat until fluffy, about 1 minute. Add the eggs, sour cream, half-and-half and vanilla; beat until well blended, about 1 minute. Add the flour mixture; beat on low speed to combine, scraping the sides with a rubber spatula, about 30 seconds. Increase speed to medium and mix just until well blended, about 30 seconds. With a rubber spatula, gently fold in the blueberries. Turn batter into prepared pan. Sprinkle the topping mixture evenly on top; press lightly. Bake until a wooden pick inserted in the center comes out clean, 40 to 45 minutes. Let cool in pan 30 minutes before serving.

Yield: 16 portions

Per portion: 216 calories; 33 g carbohydrate; 8 g total fat; 5 g saturated fat; 1 g fiber.

Bake Like A Pro With 10 Easy Tips

For cupcakes that look as good as they taste, use an aluminum foil-lined baking cup that's designed to keep its pattern after baking.

(NAPSA)-Whether it's a school party, personal accomplishment or just because, every day, there are occasions that call for special treats or desserts. Even with a full schedule, busy moms can bake and decorate beautiful cupcakes that would be perfect for any gathering.

The key is to use quality ingredients and products designed for the job. To help, best-selling authors and cupcake gurus Karen Tack and Alan Richardson share their best tips for baking cupcakes like a pro every day.

• Start with a good cupcake pan. It should be silver colored and a little on the heavy side.

• For cupcakes that look as good as they taste, use an aluminum foil-lined baking cup that's designed to keep its pattern after baking, such as Reynolds Stay-Brite Baking Cups. Baking cups that are not foil lined can lose their color while baking.

• Before mixing your cupcake batter, make sure to bring all ingredients to room temperature. This way, the ingredients are more likely to blend together easily.

• Remember, if you mix cold items into your batter, you run the risk of having a lumpy consistency. This might lead you to overmix the batter and overmixing can cause cupcakes to be chewy instead of moist.

• Pinch the ends of your baking cup with paper clips to make your cupcakes into different shapes, like a star or a football.

• Only fill your baking cup 2/3 to the top. They will rise to the top of the liner while baking.

• Simply use a serrated knife to trim the top of your cupcakes so they are flat, rather than rounded like a mushroom cap you may find in a bakery. This makes it easier to decorate the top of the cupcake.

• Chill your cupcakes before you frost them so they won't crumble while you're handling them.

• Wipe the excess frosting off the spatula on the edge of the can before going back for another swipe. If you have extra frosting on your spatula, you will never get a clean peak on your cupcake top.

• Keep frosting at room temperature before spreading it on your cupcakes. If frosting is too cold, it will be difficult to spread and can tear the cake. If frosting is too warm, it becomes runny and messy.

For more tips and for fun-filled recipes, visit www.cupcakecentral.com.

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SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 39 | Number 11 | December 4, 2012

Burbank, Evergreen Park, Hickory Hills, Justice, Oak Lawn

Justice announces "Holiday Food Baskets/Toy Drive and Scholarship Event"

by Jan Glaz

On November 26th at the Village of justice President and Board of Trustees Meeting. Trustee Sue Small reminded residents that Justice is having a Holiday Food Drive. Toy Drive. and Scholarship event. Nonperishable food items. new unopened toys for children under 12 and monetary donations will help countless families in need of assistance. Residents can remit monetary donations to Justice Special Events - Holiday Baskets. 7800 Archer Road. Justice. IL. 60458. Monetary donations not expended during the distrihution will add to the Scholarship Fund to assist graduating high school seniors to continue their education. Village drop-off locations are: at the Village Hall. the Justice Library. and Justice Public Works and at elementary and Jr. high schools. Brodnicki and Wilkins. For those in need of assistance this Holiday Season. applications will he availahle in the Finance Office at Village Hall. the deadline to suhmit is Decemher 7th. Questions: Please contact Janet Cervantes. Special Events Coordinator. hy leaving her a message at 708-458-2520 or via email at specialevents@villageofjustice.org.

Trustee Rick Symonds announced a possible action that the city council agreed to approve for a side-agreement to memorialize an accepted employment practice with Service Employees International Union (SEIU). The Union is a Service Employees International Union. an organization of 2.1 million members united by the helief in the dignity and worth of workers and the services they provide and dedicated to improving the lives of workers and their families and creating a more just and humane society.

Before the meeting adjourned. Trustee Ed Rusch Jr. hrought two motions to the floor for approval: A home occupation license for Gold Joh Construction Inc. at 7801 S. Cronin Avenue. a siding contractor. and the husiness license of Fair Share Gaming. LLC. 8052 W. 186th Street. Tinley Park. IL. 60487. a gaming terminal operator doing business at the Duett Bar located at 8348 South Roherts Road Justice. IL 60458 (708) 430-1099.

Evergreen Park approves ordinance for Culver's

hy Matt Mayer

Mayor James Sexton at a hrief Nov. 19 Evergreen Park Board of Trustees meeting reiterated his objection regarding plans for the CSX Railroad which recently purchased. the Grand Trunk Rail Line to increase train traffic through the village from 4 trains to a maximum of 23 trains daily.

In other announcements. leaf pick up will continue until mid December weather permitting. Residents who are able hodied should dispose of leaves in the green compose containers. Only excess leaves should be raked to the curh.

Ordinance 30-12 for an easement agreement and extinguishment of easement and release agreement for the alley located next to 3159 W. 95th Street and 9505 S. Kedzie Avenue for the development of a Culvers Restaurant. which is. slated for development on Kedzie Avenue behind Chase Bank. The restaurant is slated to be completed in March or April according to the developer when asked after the meeting.

Other highlights: A request from Bleekers. Barracos and Harte's to temporally extend the liquor license hours for various dates through February was approved as well as the annual Illinois Municipal League membership dues of $1,343.00.

Oak Lawn Library upcoming events

"The Hobbit" Next Night Reads Title at Oak Lawn Library

"The Hobbit" by J.RR. Tolkien is the December selection for Night Reads - the Oak Lawn Library's bi-monthly book group for adults. "If you care for journeys here and back. out of the comfortable Western world, over the edge of the Wild. and home again. and can take an interest in a humble hero (blessed with a little wisdom and a little courage and considerahle good luck). here is a record of such a journey and such a traveler" – J.R.R. Tolkien.

The discussion will be held at the library. on Tuesday. Dec. 4 from 7-8:30 p.m.

Free Movie: "People Like Us"

Free movie screening of "People Like Us" on Monday. Dec. 10 at 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. While settling his recently deceased father's estate. a salesman discovers he has a sister whom he never knew about, leading both sihlings to re-examine their pereeptions ahout family and life choices. Starring Chris Pine, Elizabeth Banks and Michelle Pfeiffer. Rated: PG-13. Running time: 114 min.

"The Write Stuff" for Grades 3 to 5

Free program for young writers in third through fifth grades titled "The Write Stuff: Action!" on Tuesday. Dec. 11 from 4-5 p.m. Participants will flex their creative museles with a series of exereises that ean be completed during each program session. Advance registration is required at the Youth Services Desk with the child's library eard.

Teen Game Night

Teens in sixth through twelfth grades are invited to participate in a free video game night hosted by the Oak Lawn Public Library on Wednesday. Dec. 12 from 7-8:30 p.m. Students will have open play on Kinect. Wii and Dance Dance Revolution game systems. Teens may also bring their own controllers and video games (rated up to "T" for "Teen") to play with others. Snacks and drinks provided. No advance registration.

Free movie screening of "The Bishop's Wife" on Friday. Dec. 14 at 10 a.m. A bishop trying to get a new cathedral built prays for guidance. An angel arrives. but his guidance isn't about fundraising. Starring Cary Grant. Loretta Young and David Niven. Not rated. Running time: 109 min.

Free Concert: "Christmas Cheer" presented hy The Legacy Girls

Sunday. Dec. 16 from 2-3 p.m. In this heartwarming production. the Legacy Girls will showcase some fun and delightful tunes. as well as a few meaningful holiday classics.

"Jingle Bells. The Merry Christmas Polka. Santa Claus is Comin' to Town" and many more will put you in the mood to deck your halls and relive the musical legacies of the season. Because of their love for their personal heroes. the popular Andrews Sisters of the 1940's. the Legacy Girls would be remiss if they didn't include some of the Andrews Sisters' Christmas hits recorded baek in their day. Sponsored hy the Friends of the Oak Lawn Library. No advanee registration required.

Online Card Registration

eed to do online research or want to reserve novels. audio hooks and movies. but don't have a library eard? The Oak Lawn Public Library. is pleased to announce "Temporary Online Patron Registration." Fill out the online registration form. located at www.oaklawnlibrary.org/lihrarycards2.shtml. and visit the Circulation Desk within 14 days to receive your permanent card. Remember to bring proof of residency in Oak Lawn.

For more information. call (708) 422-4990 or visit www.oaklawnlibrary.org.

The Oak Lawn Puhlic Library is located at 9427 S. Raymond Avenue.

St. Laurence Student Council food drive

The St. Laurence Student Council recently held a very successful school-wide food drive to help support the Burbank Food Pantry at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. After a week of collection in the school. the food was packed. loaded. and delivered to the pantry on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. The donations from the St. Laurence community will feed approximately 500 families for the upcoming holidays. Pictured are (L-R) Nicholas Panera! (Berwyn). Patrick Haugh (Orland Park). and Conor Wedel (Chicago. Ashburn) loading boxes of food donated by the faculty. staff. and students of St. Laurence High School.

For more information on the recently completed food drive. please contact Mr. Mike Oliver. St. Laurence Student Council moderator. at 708-458-6900. ext. 223.

Village View

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FAR SOUTH EDITION

Volume 10 | Number 23 | December 4, 2012

Oak Forest, Orland Park, Tinley Park

Orland Park bond sale a phenomenal success

by Jan Glaz

On September 19th at the Village of Orland Park Board of Trustees Meeting, an Ordinance in regards to Providing for the Issuance of General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2012D, of the Village of Orland Park, Cook and Will Counties, Illinois, and Providing for the Levy and Collection of a Direct Annual Tax Sufficient for the Payment of the Principal of and Interest on Said Bonds met with approval. Speer Financial, Inc. had advised staff of a potential refunding opportunity on the Village's outstanding General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2004. The estimated net present value savings to he realized hy issuing the Series 2012D refunding bonds is estimated at $404.000, or 7.55%. This savings amount is net of all issuance costs. Five bidders submitted a total of 24 bids, savings on issuances is about $487.000. Total issuance is over $5 million. A representative from Speer Financial commented, "They knew they had customers who would buy this right away." Total interest savings over the course of three years is about $2.2 million. Both rating agencies, Moody's and Standard &Poor's, have reaffirmed the Village's hond rating for this issuance, as well as for the Village's overall outstanding debt: the Village's rating with Moody's is Aa1 and with S&P is AA+.. "The strength of Orland Park's demand creates these rates, which are phenomenal." said Trustee Brad S. O'Halloran.

Village Details: Before the close of the meeting the board decided that "Drop Zone" will lose out. The three year bid for the Rental of Portable Toilets and Service was awarded in December 2010. Three firms bid on the work and Drop Zone Portable Services, Inc. was the lowest responsible bidder and was awarded the contract. That contract is scheduled to terminate on November 30, 2013, but can be terminated by either of party for default upon failure to cure after ten (10) days prior written notice. The Village may terminate this Contract with thirty (30) days prior written notice at any time. Over the past two years the Parks Department and Recreation Special Events staff has had concerns with Drop Zone regarding special event pricing and the their contract for the year 2013 will not be renewed. The village will seek a new RFP on portable toilets that asks for separate special event pricing but allows the Village to negotiate with other providers for events as needed.

Santa cleared to land in Tinley Park

by Jan Glaz

A Resolution providing for and authorizing landing rights to Santa Claus in the Village of Tinley Park, Cook and Will Counties, Illinois was approved on November 20th at the Tinley Park Board of Trustees Meeting. It is resolved that the Village Board, representing the great citizens of the community, provide Santa Claus with whatever order is required to land at their homes as often as he deems appropriate, on Monday evening December 24, 2012 and Tuesday morning December 25th. It is also resolved that the Police Department, Public Works Department and other Municipal Agencies shall provide any and all assistance Santa Claus might need. The resolution is signed by Village President, Edward J. Zabrocki.

Officials accepted a Resolution approving a storm water management agreement between Kowalis Motors, Inc., Jeffrey Kowalis, President, located at 8505 W. 159th Street (Orland Toyota) and the Village of Tinley Park. It was discovered during expansion for a service center, and significant upgrades to landscape and front yard areas and other impervious surfaces that the site met the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) standards for storm water but did not meet the Village of Tinley Park's storm water standards. Kowalis Motors agreed to make the necessary storm water improvements in order for the Village Engineer to sign the (MWRD) permit to continue the project improvements.

Newsworthy: Consideration was granted approving an extension to a contract approved in 2009 and extended in 2011. The Village under this contract secured the ability to purchase land from the Lincoln-Way High School District 210. Through its Home Rule authority, the Village desires to acquire the property so it can best control who the property is sold to, as well as, dictate development standards. Under the agreement the Village is required to pay $6,250 in additional earnest fee which will secure an additional (4) four month diligence period during which the Village can identify a developer to purchase the property. The contract purchase is $7.5 million. If the village cannot locate an acceptable developer, it has the option of allowing the contract to lapse at the end of the four month period without further expense or extend it for another sixty (60) days. If it moves forward the earnest money will be applied to the purchase price.

Before the meeting adjourned it was announced that Tinley's Toyland Parade is December 1st. Step-off at 11:30 a.m., the viewing area is 175th Street to Zabrocki Plaza. On Sunday, December 2nd, the Parade of Lights will Step-off at 5:00 p.m., the viewing area: 177th Street along Oak Park Avenue.

Oak Forest camera revenue isn't pretty

by Jan Glaz

Police Chief Greg Anderson provided details in regards to the extension of an agreement with Gatso USA for the Automated Traffic Law Enforcement System (Red Light Cameras) at the Oak Forest City Council Meeting, November 27th. "We don't have that many violations anymore because everybody knows the cameras are there." stated Anderson. Alderman Richard Simon confronted the Police Chief. "I was surprised to see this on the agenda because I understood we were not going to renew this. People making right turn on red normally don't cause accidents and most tickets seem to be right turn on red." When Alderman Toland questioned the Chief about safety Anderson replied, "We did a report for IDOT last year and accidents had gone down by around 10-15%." Simon stood his ground, "I was opposed to this in the first place and I'm still opposed to it. I feel it's more of a money scheme than a traffic safety program. I will vote no." A full two year contract extension including two more single year extensions with Gatso USA passed 5-2. Alderman Ensing and Alderman Simon voted no.

Economic End Notes: The Board of Trustees granted a six month development agreement to MidAm Development Properties, LLC for City-owned property commonly known as the "Oak Fest Site and Church Property" at approximately 5400 West 159th Street. MidAm boasts 35 years of experience and in an initial marketing phase is seeking to attract major retailers to the area. Co-founder of MidAm, David Bossy, told the city council that his vision for the location is commercial development mixed with a small percentage of residential development. An Ordinance passed to decrease the number of liquor licenses due to the closing of Speedway Super America located at 15301 South Harlem Avenue and to increase the number of liquor licenses for Oak Forest Marathon which will open at that location.

Lipinski helps dedicate 80th Avenue Station in Tinley Park

U.S. Rep. Dan Lipinski (IL-3) recently joined Tinley Park Mayor Ed Zabrocki, Metra Chairman Brad O'Halloran and other state and local leaders at a dedication ceremony for the village's new 80th Avenue Station on Metra's Rock Island District Line. The $11.5 million project included $6.9 million in federal funds to rebuild a stop that accommodates more than 2,500 passengers each day, the most on the Rock Island District Line and the fourth-highest total on the entire Metra system. With the addition of a pedestrian underpass and other safety improvements, the Federal Railroad Administration recently approved quiet zones at six Rock Island District Line grade crossings through Tinley Park.

"The new 80th Avenue Station is a wonderful addition to the community. I'm sure riders appreciate the modern amenities that will make public transportation a more attractive option for their daily commutes," Lipinski said. "I want to congratulate Mayor Zabrocki and Chairman O'Halloran for building a station that everyone in Tinley Park and the entire Metra organization can be proud of."

Village View

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SOUTH SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 13 | Number 23 | December 4, 2012

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

Palos Heights recognizes Chief Water Operator

by Matt Mayer

Mayor Robert Straz congratulated Chief Water Operator, Wayne Erick, for being nominated Operator of the Year and awarded 1st Runner-Up in the Water Distribution Category at the Illinois Potable Water Supply Operators Association Conference in Springfield, Ill in September.

A request to transfer $500,615.00 from the general fund to the capitol improvement fund for fiscal year 2013 for capitol projects in accordance with the fund balance policy was approved. A request from the Beautification Committee to purchase a 1969 white Cougar Convertible for an amount not to exceed 15,270.00 for the 2013 Classic Car raffle was also approved.

A municipal grounds and property request for the payment of $29,743.36 to Matthew Paving for work completed on the hike patch repaving project was also approved as well as a recreation request to award program brochure printing to the lowest bidder, American Litho, for two years in an amount not to exceed $31,068.00. A request to hire American Eagle to provide web design services for the parks and recreation department in an amount not to exceed $10,000.00 and a roads and construction request to authorize the mayor to execute an agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) for sidewalk and crossing improvements at 123rd and Harlem was also approved.

A roads and construction ordinance 150.79(a)(1-5) amending the city code for technical standards for elevators to be in compliance with the Illinois Elevator Safety Program was approved as well as a request to authorize the mayor to execute an intergovernmental agreement with Cook County to provide health inspection services from December 1, 2012 to November 30,2013. A water and sewer department request for the third amendment to the water supply agreement between South Palos Sanitary District and the City from November 20, 2012 to September 30, 2013 was also approved.

Palos Park puts baseball field on hold

by Matt Mayer

The Palos Park Village Council at the Nov.12 Village Council meeting voted to reject all bids for the construction of a baseball field to be located on the Holy Family Park site at 122nd Street and Will-Cook Road due to the cost exceeding the grant money for the project. Community Development Director Steven Manning said the village received two grants from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for $225,000. However the eight bids the village received ranged from $262,000 to $380,000, which exceeded the grant allowance, said Manning.

"We can go back and fine-tune the plan and re-bid the project in the spring. We're still going to get our baseball field and parking lot. We may have to cut something but we will get the basic park in there," said Manning.

Mayor John Mahoney said typically the village receives bids that are lower than the grant money but in this case they were higher. "If we re-bid, that may cure the problem." said Mahoney.

Manning said the grant is due to expire in July however he thought the time frame could be extended if the village requests it. The bids the village received were for a five-acre parcel near Holy Family Villa, which the village purchased in 2006 for $550,000.

Chicago Ridge approves video gaming ordinance

by Matt Mayer

A video gaming ordinance establishing a $250.00 annual fee and a $100.00 terminal sticker fee was approved at the Nov. 20 Chicago Ridge Board of Trustees meeting. A public works request to purchase radios as well as a fire department request to purchase a vinyl floor for the firehouse headquarters from B&M Tile for $2,539.40 and a request to purchase or lease 21 Christmas pole decorations for $6,000 were all approved.

At the Nov. 7 Board meeting in respect to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the village typically receives $150,000 from the maximum requested allotment of $300,000, however this year the village received the requested the full $300,000. A fire department request to hire one firefighter/paramedic was approved as well as a power pro stretcher for $3,500. A letter of understanding regarding the hiring of new firefighters and a contract with Baker Tilly for an audit proposal at $75,000 for a three-year agreement or $81, 000 for a one-year agreement was also approved.

Erich Spengler, director and principal investigator of CSSIA at Moraine Valley, is interviewed for a video produced by the National Science Foundation.

CSSIA at Moraine Valley undergoes makeover

The newly installed see-through yellow box enclosing the Virtualization Data Center stands out at the main entrance of Building T at Moraine Valley Community College. It is part of the Center for Systems Security and Information Assurance (CSSIA) on campus, which will be highlighted in a national video.

Remodeling of Building T included relocating the CSSIA offices and its data center with plans for job fairs, expanded tutoring, industry forums, and more to get students further engaged in cybersecurity, said Erich Spengler, director and principal investigator of CSSIA and Moraine Valley professor of computer integrated technologies. New staff is working on a $3.7 million grant for Cybersecurity and Virtual Labs, which is a component of a $20 million grant for job training and workforce development in the Information Technology industry. The college is a member of The National Information, Security, and Geospatial Technology Consortium (NISGTC), a national syndicate of seven community colleges (and 19 affiliated colleges) composed of National Science Foundation Advanced Technological Education Centers. Last fall this consortium received the grant.

"We're helping build seven data centers at seven other community colleges around the country. This all helps student learning, student success," Spengler said. "We can uniquely serve students. The big picture is how both CSSIA and this grant are working together to help students here and nationally."

Since 2003, Moraine Valley has been the lead institution for CSSIA as a regional center for five states with a focus on curriculum development, outreach, and faculty development and mentoring. It expanded into a national resource center with a focus on high school and college cybersecurity skills competitions, academic mentoring for faculty and students for competitions, and faculty development. Its Virtualization Data Center is a one-of-a-kind cyber lab with 192 servers that students can virtually log onto for competitions. Because of all this, the National Science Foundation (NSF) visited recently to shoot a two-and-a-half minute video highlighting the center. NSF is creating a series of videos for its website on science themes such as robotics and health that will be available to the news media. The NSF video crew interviewed students and Spengler, toured the center, followed an interactive class with Dr. John Sands, professor of Information Technology and CSSIA co-principal investigator, and interviewed a Moraine Valley alumnus who works at DELL SecureWorks. The video will show the latest research happening at the center, advances that have been made to deliver cybersecurity education, and how CSSIA is creating employment. The videos will be available on the NSF website by the end of the year.

As cybersecurity evolves, the need for cybersecurity experts increases. CSSIA at Moraine Valley wants to make that an appealing career. "That yellow room makes us a landmark on campus. We're trying to make a nice visual effect down here so students say, 'How can I make a career out of this?' Kids want to be proud of what they do. We want to show them they can have a career and make a good life. We want students to hear us out so we can show them there are opportunities to make this an exciting place to be. We want this to be the place to be in technology," Spengler said.

Village View

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B-MAC EDITION

Volume 6 | Number 23 | December 4, 2012

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

New Primary Care Physician joins the medical staff at MetroSouth Medical Center

Family Medicine/Obstetrics physician David Beckmann, M.D., is now a member of the medical staff at MetroSouth Medical Center. His office is located in the MetroSouth Doctors Pavilion, 2310 York Street, Blue Island, directly across the street from the hospital. His medical practice focuses on the entire family, which includes prenatal care and deliveries, pediatrics, adults and seniors. Dr. Beckmann speaks Spanish and French.

Dr. Beckmann comes to MetroSouth Medical Center from Dean Health System, Madison, WI, where he practiced family medicine with an emphasis in obstetrics and pediatrics. Previously he completed his residency as a family physician at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and St. Mary's Hospital, Madison, and graduated from the Pritzker School of Medicine, University of Chicago.

He grew up in Downers Grove, IL, and is thrilled to get back to his "roots" and closer to family. "This is a tremendous opportunity to work with the tight-knit, family-oriented community of Blue Island and the surrounding communities," said Dr. David Beckmann. "I understand how important family is and I am excited to care for children, parents and grandparents."

Dr. David Beckmann is currently accepting new patients and offering a free 15-minute "getting to know you" session. His office phone number is 708-489-7800.

Midlothian Trustees grapple over $400 deposit

by Jan Glaz

At the Village of Midlothian Board Meeting dated November 28th Trustee Gary L'Heureux had planned to bring a motion before the board to approve $400 for a deposit to send Officer Olmos to attend a Police Staff and Command Management Program at Northwestern University, instead he announced that in light of finances at this time the Chief of Police thought not to send the Officer. The total amount to attend the program is $3400. Trustee Gillis offered that there is a way to fund the entire request and Trustee L'Heureux then began to bring forth the motion, but another Trustee questioned. "What are we going to approve $400 now and then have to approve $100, then $200 next week?" Trustee L'Heureux agreed, "I will amend my motion to ask the board to approve the expenditure of $3400 to send Sargent Olmos to the Police Staff and Command Management Program at Northwestern University when funds become available from an outside source." There were no objections.

Other News: Before the meeting adjourned City Administrator James Lang revealed that he met with the owner of the Family Pride property located at 148th and Pulaski and a proposed developer to establish a Motorcycle Facility at that location. A first draft was delivered stating that the tenant will take over all 21,000 square feet of that building. Both parties went to the bank to discuss the loan process to improve the property. A Class 8 redevelopment agreement is contingent on the owner getting the building up to code. A Sales Tax sharing agreement will be provided to the board by the 5th of December.

Mayor Terrence Stephens announced the good news that they would not need to approve any listed invoices for the Water Main Replacements of J. Congdon Sewer Service Inc. and Swallow Construction Corporation because he received word that the City was paid up. The only outstanding invoice would be in regards to a water main project on Cicero Avenue with J. Congdon.

Second time around for Electrical Aggregation

by Jan Glaz

Officials granted a request at the Village of Alsip Board Meeting on November 19th to place a second referendum regarding Electrical Aggregation on the April 9, 2013 ballot and to work with the Illinois Energy Aggregation, LLC (IEA) to inform residents of the benefits of electrical aggregation in the Alsip community. The city's consultant for aggregation offered that the issue did not pass due to a lack of public education on the matter of aggregating and because the federal government's requirements as to the framing of questions on the ballot caused confusion. The representative for (IEA) stated that they will provide public information in the form of letters: a public forum to answer questions: direct voter contact and other types of mass communication. "Electrical Aggregation would reduce everybody's electric bill about $200 a year." said Mayor Patrick Kitching. Many surrounding communities have adopted aggregation and are saving an estimated 25% - 40% on the electric supply portion of their electric bills.

Newsworthy: Holiday pay for firefighters met with approval. The holidays: Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and the day after Thanksgiving for a total amount of $35,358.48. The city council agreed to allow a temporary guard shack for the widely recognized liquid bulk carrier, Heniff Transportation, located at 11520 S. Central Avenue, for a maximum time limit of six (6) months. council also agreed that the Village Hall will be closed on the Saturday before Christmas, December 22, 2012, to allow for two clerks that would normally work Saturday to have a 4 day holiday.

Santa is coming to town

Greet Santa as he arrives for lunch in his personal helicopter! On Saturday, December 15, 2012 at 10:30 a.m. Blue Island Park District, Memorial Park Football Field, 12804 S. Highland Ave, Blue Island, IL.

Lunch With Santa

The Blue Island Park District Banquet Hall is converted into Santa's Workshop. Guests will craft together a plethora of holiday themed goodies and enjoy a delicious meal, plus get a professional photograph of your child with Santa printed on the spot. On Saturday, December 15, from 11:00 a.m., cost is $15- $20 Memorial Park Banquet Hall, 12804 S. Highland Ave. Blue Island, IL.

Dinner with Santa

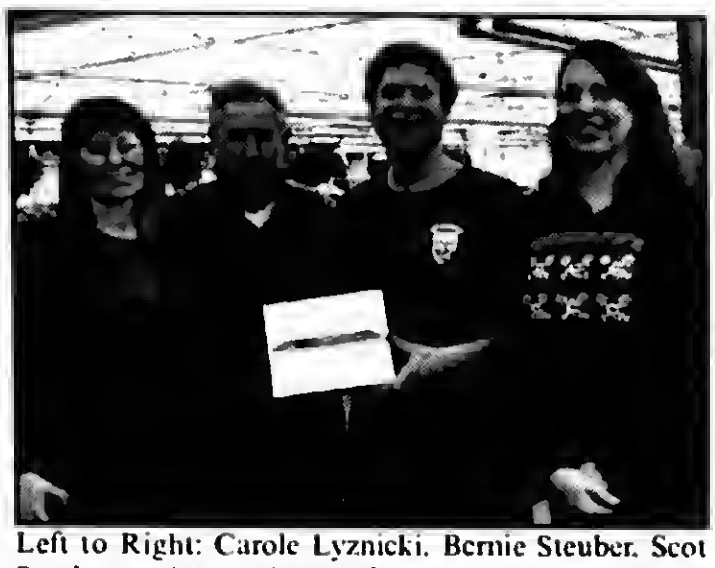
Enjoy a delicious Dinner with Santa, as well as photos, music and piñata

Cost is $10 adults, $8 children.

On Saturday, December 8,2012 from 5 - 9 p.m. at the St. Benedict Church Hall, 2339 York St., Blue Island, IL.

Midlothian Public Library for Career Paths And Coffee

Join staff from Moraine Valley Community College on Thursday, December 13th at 6:30 PM at the Midlothian Public Library for "Career Paths And Coffee: First Step to a New Future". Are you and adult thinking about your future? Join us for a cup of coffee at an information session to learn more about: Preparing for high-demand jobs; exploring a new career; earning a college degree and more! Register online at www.midlothianlibrary.org or call the Reference Desk at 708-535-2027.



Left to Right: Carole Lyznicki, Bernie Steuber, Scot Steuber, and Melanie Petoske.

Little Company of Mary Hospital announces Crystal Heart Ball early bird winner

Congratulations to the Steuber family! The Steuber's won the Crystal Heart Ball early bird raffle prize, a new iPad.

Little Company of Mary Huspital Foundation will host its 24th annual Crystal Heart Ball on Saturday, February 2, 2013 at The Field Museum. Cocktails at 6:30 p.m., black tie dinner at 8:00 p.m., and dancing to the music of Indigo, cash grand raffle.

Two awards will be presented to individuals/organizations for their outstanding accomplishments and service. This year the hospital will honor Harmony, Hope and Healing- Marge Nykaza and LCMH Cancer Center's Integrative Therapies.

A cash raffle will he offered with a grand prize of $15,000 as well as a second prize of $5,000, third prize of $2.500, and fourth prize of $1.000. Raffle tickets are on sale for $100 each in the foundation department and winners do not have to he present.

The Crystal Heart Ball tickets are $300 per person and proceeds will benefit Values, Vision, Innovation: The Campaign for Little Company of Mary Hospital. Guests may purchase a Diamond table for $7.500, a Heart of Gold Table for $5.000, or a Crystal Heart Tahle for $3000, each offering special benefits. Please contact the Little Company of Mary's Foundation department to purchase your event tickets at 708.229.5447 or visit http://www.lcmhfoundation.org/events

Chicago Bulls FUNdamentals Camps

The Bulls/Sox Academy announced that it will be hosting a Chicago Bulls FUNdamentals Camp staring Saturday, January 19th located at 8455 W. 103rd St. in Palos Hills.

The Chicago Bulls FUNdamentals Camp is a 4 week session designed to teach players the latest techniques in hall handling, passing, shooting, footwork and rebounding as well as offensive and defensive team play. The Bulls/Sox Academy believes every young player should have fun while improving their game.

The camp is open to boys and girls. Bulls FUNdamentals Camp, for ages five to eight year olds, will run on Saturdays from 1:00pm-2:00pm for $79 per athlete, and 2:00-3:30pm for nine to twelve year olds starting January 19th for $114.00 per athlete. Each participant will receive top-flight instruction from professional Academy coaches, a tee shirt, scouting report and a replica autograph photo of current Bulls superstar Derrick Rose.

The Bulls/Sox Academy opened in 2001 in Lisle, Illinois and runs extensive training programs in basketball, baseball, fastpitch softball, and sports conditioning for boys and girls from beginner to professional. There are additional Academy locations in Glen Ellyn, LaGrange, and Schererville, IN. For more information or to register for this camp, go to www.BullsSoxAcademy.com or call 630-324-8221.

Business Unwrapped focuses on networking

Strictly Networking Session Helps Make Connections.

Networking will be the activity of choice for the December session of Business Unwrapped, a joint seminar series with the Orland Park Public Library. The networking session will be held on Friday, December 14 from 11:45 am to 1:00 pm at the Orland Park Public Library which is located at 14921 S. Ravinia.

Using a speed dating format, the structured networking event allows participants a timed five minute introduction with an opportunity to explain their business and distribute business cards and promotional materials to those seated at their table. The goal of the session is to have participants leave the session with 10 solid contacts.

The Business Unwrapped seminar series runs from September through May. Attendance is free and all are welcome to attend. Participants are encouraged to bring their lunch to this noon time session. For more information on future topics or to RSVP for the networking session, please visit the chamber's website at www.orlandparkchamber.org or call the Chamber office at (708) 349-2972.

Veterans of Foreign Wars accepting donations to help veterans in need

Donations collected stay in local community.

As we enter the holiday season, many veterans throughout Illinois are facing financial difficulties, unsure of how they will pay their rent, murtgage, utility bills or even purchase groceries.

As the Veterans of Foreign Wars tagline suggests, No One Does More For Veterans. More than 113 years ago, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States was founded for two purposes, legislation directly impacting veterans and to assist veterans, our military, and their families.

As war continues in Afghanistan, multiple deployments impact the lives of those serving in our Armed Forces. Many of our nation's newest combat veterans return home to face eviction notices from landlords, mortgage foreclosures, and shut-off notices from utility companies. In addition, many of our older veterans face the necessity of choosing between the need to purchase medicine or groceries.

When called upon, the Veterans of Foreign Wars turn to dunations from the public to help veterans facing a financial crisis. Through the generosity of local donations, organizations can assist our needy veterans with their rent, mortgages, utility bills and groceries. That's where you, John and Jane Q. Public, can help.

Veterans of Foreign Wars posts in your community have funds established to which munetary donations can be earmarked to assist veterans in need. Those funds are collected through poppy drives, various fundraisers and generous individuals and businesses making monetary donations. In addition, many posts conduct food drives throughout the holidays to help provide holiday meals for veterans in their communities needing assistance.

During this holiday season while you are enjoying time with your family, please consider making a donation to your local Veterans of Foreign Wars post to help those veterans less fortunate in your community.

For infurmation on making donations, contact the local Veterans of Foreign Wars post in your community.

Holiday events in Palos Heights

Annual tree lighting ceremony: Friday, December 7, 6:30 to 8:30 pm, ut the Palos Heights Fire Station, 123rd & Harlem. Come out und enjuy a family fun-filled evening. Santa arrives by fire truck. Goodie bags for the kids, cookies, hot chocolate, und much mure.

Holiday tree decorating contest the winners of the contest will be announced and receive their prizes the night of the Tree Lighting Ceremony on Friday.

Palos Heights Woman's Club Christmas House Walk, is Saturday, December 8, at Gaelic Park. Breakfast settings at 9 um and 10 am. House tours begin at 10:30 am until 2:30 pm. Boutique, Cookie Sale, and Raffles. Tickets are $35 und can be purehased at Breadsmith, Karen's Hallmark, Mona Lisa, or Papa's Fresh until Dec. 4. For more info or tickets, please contact Rose at 708-945-6254.

Lake Katherine's holiday hayride is on Friday, December 14, 2012 offering two hayrides at 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Cost $8 per person. Family fun features a hayride through the streets of Palos Heights, Christmas carols, food, crafts and activities. Registration in advunce by mail or in person. For more infurmation, please call 708-361-1873.

Tinley Park Public Library December programs

The Tinley Park Public Library will host Holiday Classics Concert on Sunday, December 9, 2012 at 3 pm. Enjoy a musical performance of holiday classical music with saxophonist Andrew Carpenter and pianist Tatiana Naumova. Selections by Handel and Bach will set the mood for a peaceful holiday season. Register in person, online or by phone.

Gifts from the kitchen

The Tinley Park Public Library will host Gifts from the Kitchen on Wednesday, December 12, 2012 at 7 pm. Make someone special a tasty gift this holiday including cranberry-orange muffins and Busche de Noel (yule log). Register in person, online or by phone.

Love grows... by giving

The Tinley Park Public Library will once again be a drop off site for your holiday donations for the following local organizations: Crisis Center of South Suburbia, Tinley Park Food Pantry, and Together We Cope. Boxes marked for each group along with a wish list will be located in the library's lobby beginning now through Friday, December 14, 2012. Your generosity to our community's needy is most appreciated. All three organizations will gladly accept gift cards from local stores as well as cash donations; please make checks payable to the organization of your choice.

For more information, please call 708-532-0160. The library is located at 7851 Timber Drive. Our website is www.tplibrary.org.

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We have found that through the years of publishing the readers are interested in general information and also local happenings within their community. Therefore because we are fully electronic, we will not be accepting faxed or mailed news releases.

Join us for an exciting evening of opera musical theater and holiday magic

The Presbyterian Church in Orland Park proudly presents a "Holiday Concert" featuring famed baritone Jonathan Beyer on Friday evening, December 14th at 7:30 p.m. We hope you will use this beautiful evening of music (opera and traditional Christmas) at our church to reach out to your family, friends and neighbors during this holiday season.

We are thrilled to have Jonathan Beyer return to our church for a second year to perform for us. The first half of the concert will be operatic and musical theater. The second half of the concert will be dedicated to Christmas Holiday music. The concert will also include a guest pianist and guest mezzo-soprano soloist, Joanna Wernette. Jonathan has performed with the Chicago Symphony, Netherlands Radio, and Philadelphia Orchestra. Mr. Beyer is an Illinois native and graduate of Carl Sandburg H.S.

Tickets are available in the church office. The Presbyterian Church in Orland Park, 13401 S. Wolf Road, Orland Park. $15 for adults/$12 for seniors. Please call 708-448-8142 if you are interested in purchasing tickets.

Oak Forest Park District winter events

Christmas House Decorating Contest

To enter fill out a registration form at the Oak Forest Park District by Monday, December 10th. Judging will begin at 6:00pm on Thursday, December 13th. For more information, call Kirstin at 687-7270 x132.

This is a free event. All houses must reside within Oak Forest boundaries.

Letters from Santa

Santa's mailbox will be here until Friday, December 14th at 5:00pm so boys and girls can reach him fast and easy. Cost is $3.00 per child's letter. Your child will then receive a letter from "Santa" with a special holiday surprise. Sponsored by C.O.U.R.T.

For more info, call Gina Byrnes at 687-7270 x119.

Girls only Pajama Party on Thursday, December 27th from 10:00am to 2:00pm.

Wear your comfy pj's and slippers. We are going to have fun, pamper ourselves, polish our nails, make a snack to eat and watch a movie. Bring a sack lunch.

Fee: $24 resident/$31 non-resident.

For more info, call Kirstin at 687-7270 x132.

The Oak Forest Park District is located at 15601 Central Ave., Oak Forest.

Local Holiday Helpers lend a helping hand for the Holidays

Elders' elves help seniors with everything from 'Gift Wrap to Google'

Holidays are "the most wonderful time of the year" to many – but if you're a senior, it's also one of the most challenging. If seniors' children can't be by their side to help them put all the dressings on the holidays, our Holiday Helpers can! These elders' elves drive the cars, open the doors and wait in the lines for their aging friends who can't do it on their own anymore. They hunt for deals, decorate, wrap the presents and help seniors shop online. They are Holiday Helpers, and they aren't from the North Pole.

Caregivers from Senior Helpers, a leading national in-home senior care provider with offices in your area, are doing the little things and helping thousands of seniors from coast-to-coast prepare for the holidays. Whether they need errands run, cleaning done or even online shopping assistance, your local Holiday Helpers are lending a helping hand to embrace the season.

"The holidays can be tough on seniors, especially those who aren't able get out and to do things like they used to," says Peter Ross, co-founder and CEO of Senior Helpers. "We care for seniors in their own homes year-round but the holidays tend to bring additional challenges that require an extra set of hands and feet. From gift wrap to Google, our caregivers are taking care of everything seniors need to celebrate the holidays."

"We work with seniors living on their own each day and we understand how difficult and frustrating it can be when they realize they can't do it all by themselves anymore," Ross says. "The holidays can be a hectic and physically demanding time for a lot of people. We're helping seniors by shouldering some of the burden so they can focus on enjoying the season, which is really what this time of year is all about."

For more information, please visit www.seniorhelpers.com

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DAN PATLAK

Smith Crossing volunteer program welcomes new faces

The volunteer program at Smith Crossing, a continuing care retirement community (CCRC) located at 10501 Emilie Lane in Orland Park, is looking to welcome new volunteers and will have an orientation for them Saturday, Dec. 8. The residents of new wings in a reeently eompleted $37 million expansion will provide many opportunities for both student volunteers and adults who enjoy a fulfilling experienee.

Volunteer duties such as transporting residents to aetivities and special events, tutoring residents in navigating their new iPhone or computer or simply visiting one-on- one (a favorite of many volunteers) all provide welcome assistanee. "We currently have a lively group of volunteers but new faces are always welcome," says Shelly Genis, Smith Senior Living volunteer coordinator. "The residents love making new friends, even four-legged ones, when our Pet Therapy volunteers visit."

"We are grateful to our eorps of volunteers comprised of men and women, young and old, looking for a rewarding experienee and finding it at Smith Crossing," adds Genis. Volunteers also drive residents to medieal appointments, interaet with residents during aetivities and some even sing and play musieal instruments for the residents' enjoyment.

Orientation set for Saturday, Dec. 8

Before starting volunteer duties, a one-hour orientation is required. To get started, eomplete a volunteer applieation online at www.smithseniorliving.org.

The next orientation for new volunteers is set for 10 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 8 at Smith Crossing. The session should last approximately an hour.

"Aetually, volunteering at Smith Crossing broadens our volunteers' horizons as well as our residents'," says Frank Guajardo, executive director of Smith Crossing. "Volunteers tell us they eome in to provide a serviee but leave having learned many valuable life lessons. Our community here at Smith Crossing is one of various professional baekgrounds and life experiences and our residents' interests know no bounds. They have so much to share."

One stop holiday shopping

Come and join us for a afternoon of one stop Holiday shopping at 11500 South Beloit. Ave. Worth, IL., 3 blocks West of Harlem Ave, behind the Waters Edge Gold Course. On Saturday, December 8, 2012 at 1pm to-5pm. Over 15 vendors, Scentsy, Avon, LC's Barline Design, Tastefully Simple, Noah's Ark, Candle Addictions, Partylite, just to name a few vendors. Free admission and free door prize raffles.

Look at www.vvnew.com for our 2013 Media Kit

Christmas in Illinois with author Jim Ballowe

People who have lived in what we now eall Illinois have been eelebrating Christmas for over two centuries. Dr. James Ballowe, the editor of Christmas in Illinois (University of Illinois Press, 1910), will diseuss the many ways Christmas has been eelebrated by diverse Illinois residents over the past 200 years and what the eelebration eontinues to mean to Illinoisans today. Enjoy this free, family presentation at the museum. Light refreshments will be served.

Instruetor: Jim Ballowe

Wednesday, Deeember 5, 7:00 pm at Terraee Centre. www.worthparkdistriet.org or 708-448-7080 for more information.

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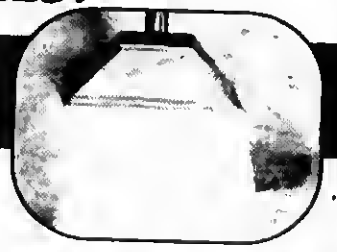

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The American Legion Auxiliary shows holiday spirit

Meeting & Christmas Party

On Monday, December 10, 2012, the Evergreen Park American Legion Auxiliary will meet at 7:00 p.m. with a Christmas party immediately following. The Auxiliary meets monthly at the American Legion Post 854, 9701 S. Kedzie Avenue in Evergreen Park.

The Auxiliary is organized and committed to helping veterans, their dependents, and active service men and women. Interested individuals are welcome to join. For information about eligibility and membership, please contact Dian Kinahan at 708-229-2129.

"Wreaths Across America"

The Evergreen Park American Legion Auxiliary will attend the "Wreaths Across America" ceremony at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, Illinois. Saturday, December 15, 2012. The ceremony is held at every national cemetery in the nation including Arlington National Cemetery. The objective is to have a wreath on every grave. Members will meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Legion Hall at 9701 S. Kedzie Ave.

The outside ceremony starts at 11:00 a.m.

Oak Lawn Chamber to host Holiday Luncheon

The Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce will meet for its annual Holiday luncheon on Tuesday, December 11th at the Hilton Oak Lawn, 9333 S. Cicero Ave. Again this year the Chamber will host a Cash-n-Carry for your Holiday Gift Items! The vendors include local businesses: Annie's LTD, Men's Wearhouse, The Children's Museum, Corner Bakery, Fannie May, Mary Kay, and more. Shopping and Networking begins at 11:30 a.m. followed by lunch at noon. Chamber members and residents are welcome to attend.

In the spirit of the Holiday Season the Oak Lawn Chamber is sponsoring a food drive again this year. Donations will benefit Pilgrim Faith Church food pantry. Please bring your donation to the Chamber office located at 5120 Museum Dr. (inside the Metra station) or our holiday luncheon on Tuesday, December 11th at the Hilton Oak Lawn.

Entertainment during the luncheon will be provided by the Oak Lawn Community High School chamber singers, under the direction of Meredith McGuire. The luncheon costs $20 per person, payable at the door by cash, check, Visa/MasterCard/Discover.

To make a luncheon reservation, or for more information, call 708-424-8300 or send an email to office@oaklawnchamber.com

Mayor McLaughlin to host property tax appeal seminar

Board of Review Commissioner Dan Patlak to Explain Process

Orland Park Mayor Dan McLaughlin will host a property tax appeal seminar in cooperation with Board of Review Commissioner Dan Patlak on Monday, December 10. The hour long program will be held at the Orland Park Civic Center , 14750 South Ravinia Avenue , beginning at 6:30 p.m.

"We're hosting the seminar to give residents enough time to file tax appeals before the December 18th deadline for Orland Township ," McLaughlin said. "The program will help people understand the correct way to file a successful tax appeal and hopefully help residents save money on their property taxes," the mayor added.

Patlak will explain how property taxes are calculated and the Board of Review's appeal procedure.

Appeal forms will be available at the seminar and Board of Review staff will be present to provide one on one assistance and answer questions. Appeals may also be filed online at www.cookcountyboardofreview.com. Questions may be directed to 312-603-3644.

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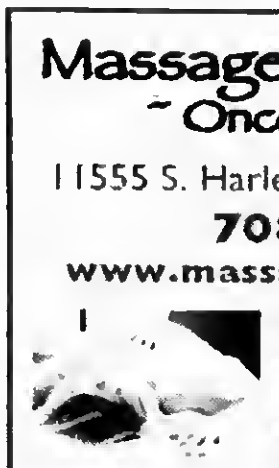

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With attorney David S. Adduce (right) of the law firm Kelly, Olson, Michod, DeHaan and Richter, LLC looking on, Treasure Chest Foundation CEO and Founder Colleen Kisel signs the legal papers to complete the Foundation's purchase of the commercial property housing their new headquarters in Orland Park.

Orland Park attorney donates time and legal services to benefit the Treasure Chest Foundation

Orland Park resident and attorney David S. Adduce has graciously donated his time and legal services to help the Pediatric Oncology Treasure Chest Foundation (POTCF) purchase its first commercial real estate property. The POTCF is a non-profit organization that provides comfort and distraction from painful procedures to children and teens diagnosed with cancer by providing a toy, gift or gift certificate in 42 hospitals nationwide. The Foundation moved its base of operations earlier this year to a new Orland Park location with expanded parking availability and nearly three times the operating spaee of its former headquarters.

David S. Adduce has been engaged in the practice of law in Illinois since 1990 with an emphasis in eivil litigation. He provides legal services involving contract, mechanics lien and bond claims on both private and public projects to members of the construction industry including owners, general contractors, subcontractors and material suppliers. Mr. Adduce is employed by the Chicago law firm of Kelly, Olson, Michod, DeHaan and Richter, LLC whose well-earned reputation for providing value-added, quality legal services has sustained its longevity since 1872.

The time and efforts Mr. Adduce provided free of charge were instrumental in making the Foundation's move possible, and from his perspective they were not without reward. "Providing pro bono legal services to the Foundation was a wonderful opportunity for me to help a charitable organization that provides support, joy and smiles to children with cancer who have to endure painful procedures in their cancer treatment and battle." said Mr. Adduce. "I was paid in full many times over by the residual good feelings I have knowing I was able to help the Foundation and the children it so cares about."

Colleen Kisel, Founder of the Treasure Chest Foundation, said, "Buying a huilding was very complex and required a stream of lengthy legal documents. These documents are drafted and redrafted and then terms of the transaction are eventually finalized. Mr. Adduce worked tirelessly preparing these papers for almost a year. Lawyers get a bad rap and people think their only concern is making money, but I am here to say Mr. David Adduce is a giving and generous man who donated his services while never seeming too busy or bothered. Buying our first building will help ensure that the Treasure Chest Foundation lives on in history and that some day every child fighting caneer throughout the nation will be rewarded for his or her bravery."

The POTCF is a unique organization whose services impact more than 7,900 young cancer patients each month. Nowhere else in the nation does such a program exist. Ms. Kisel founded the organization in 1996 after her then seven-year-old son Martin had been diagnosed with leukemia in 1993. Ms. Kisel discovered that giving her son a toy after each procedure provided a calming distraction from his pain, noting that when children are diagnosed with cancer their world soon hecomes filled with doctors, nurses, chemotherapy drugs, surgeries and seemingly endless painful procedures. Martin celebrated his 19th anniversary of remission from the disease earlier this year.

If you would like further information about the Treasure Chest Foundation, please contact Colleen Kisel at 708-687-TOYS (8697) or visit the Foundation's web site at www.treasurechest.org.

Apple Chevy Pinewood Derby car distribution event

Annually the Nishnabee District of the Calumet Council participates in Cub Scout Pinewood Derby Car Races. Cub Scouts ages 7-10, make & decorate the cars from a kit. Apple Chevy of Tinley Park will provide those Derby Car Kits to Tinley Park Cub Scout Packs in their dealership showroom at 8585 159th St., Tinley Park, on Thursday evening December 6, 2012. Santa will hand out kits from 6:30-8pm. Pack #442 is scheduled for 6:30, #398 for 7:00, #226 for 7:15, & #365 for 7:30pm.

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Smith Village names Marti Jatis executive director

Marti Jatis, 39, has been named executive director of Smith village, a continuing care retirement community (CCRC) located at 2320 W. 113th Place in Chicago's Southside Beverly neighborhood. The announcement was made by Kevin McGee, the previous executive director who was named chief executive officer of Smith Senior Living, the not-for-profit organization that sponsors Smith Village and Smith Crossing, in Orland Park, Ill.

"Smith residents often associate Marti with special celebrations and an upscale dining experience," says McGee. "Truly a part of our Smith family, Marti has helped many residents plan celebrations for birthdays, anniversaries, and other special occasions. I'm confident she brings that same enthusiastic spirit and talent to her leadership of the entire Smith Village community."

Jatis, who is from Mt. Greenwood, gruduated from Mother McAuley High School in 1991. She received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Nutrition from Northern Illinois University. She is a registered dietitian and a licensed nursing home administrator. She first started with the Smith communities in 1998 as the dietitian for the Washington and Jane Smith Community. The property was completely redeveloped in late 2007 and renamed Smith Village.

She briefly worked as director of food and nutrition services for what is now MetroSouth Medical Center in Blue Island but returned to Smith Senior Living when it completed Smith Crossing's Orland Park campus in 2004.

"I discovered I preferred serving residents more than hospital patients because here at Smith Village we enjoy long term relationships. Food is a celebration of life and goes beyond basic sustenance." Jatis looks ahead adding, "My responsibilities have broadened to all aspects of life here at Smith Village but my goal remains the same—to support staff development and creativity that will add to the quality of life for the people who reside in our community".

For more information about Smith Village, call 773-474-7300 or visit online at SmithVillage.org

Standard Bank and Trust Holiday Hope for Park Lawn

Seven Standard Bank and Trust branches are collecting donations to decorate their holiday trees to help complete the wish list of hope for Park Lawn's Angel Fund. The proceeds raised for the Angel Fund will help Park Lawn individuals diagnosed with intellectuul and developmental disabilities with little or no family support.

Anyone can support "Holiday Hope for Park Lawn" by entering one of seven Southland Standard Bank und Trust locations and make a donation to place an ornament on the branches holiday tree. It will continue throughout the holiday season ending Friday, December 22.

Participating southland Standard Bank and Trust branches are located in Hickory Hills, Oak Lawn on 95th and 111th Street, Evergreen Park, Orland Park on 159th Street, and Palos Park at 131st and 119th Street.

Donations will help purchase much needed items for Park Lawn's Angel Fund. This fund was created in Park Lawn's efforts to provide a warm, caring and loving environment for individuals with multiple medical, physical nnd intellectual disabilities. It is the goal of Park Lawn and Standard Bank & Trust to ensure all residents feel unique, loved and valued especially when family members can no longer assist. This program makes every effort to bridge the gap between essential needs and daily living necessities.

Park Lawn residents only receive $30-$50 a month in living expenses from Social Security. That amount won't cover the cost of a new coat, a new pair of shoes, community events or other living expenses.

Standard Bank and Trust realized that if it were not for the Angel Fund at Park Lawn, some of those who benefit might be left without resources on how to overcome their disabilities.

Employees of Standard Bank and Trust have been long time supporters of Park Lawn. The relationship began in 2009 when Standard Bank donated the tips they raised at a hospitality tent at the village of Oak Lawn's Fall on the Green. Employees of Oak Lawn Standard Bank and Trust also volunteer at Park Lawn's bingo, which is held every Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Branch Managers Julie Partacz and Victoria Scanlon have also joined Park Lawn's auction committee to assist with "A Rhapsody in Blue" Auction and Dinner scheduled for February 16th.

For over 60 years Standard Bank has been supporting local organizutions and remains committed to investing in the communities it serves. Standard Bank and Trust operates 43 full service locations throughout Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana. It is a locally owned and managed neighborhood bank with over $2.2 billion in assets. Standard Bank and Trust Co. is an Equal Housing Lender and Member FDIC. More information about Standard Bank and Trust Co. is available at www.standardbanks.com.

Park Lawn is a nonprofit organization offering a variety of programs and services such as udult developmental training, residential facilities, vocational training, supported employment and more for individuals with developmental disahilities since 1955. The mission of Park Lawn is to provide services that promote independence, choice and access to community for people with developmental disabilities. More information about Park Lawn can be found at www.parklawn.com.

Toy and Clothing Drive

The Oak Lawn Park District's Oak View Community Center, 4625 W. 110th St., is holding a toy and gently used clothing drive now until Thursday, December 20th.

Donations will be distributed to Advocate Children's Hospital, Public Action to Deliver Shelter (PADS), and Toys for Tots.

For more information, please contact 708-857-2200.

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Singin' in the Rain stars are Tony Yazbeck and Jenny Guse

Drury Lane Theatre in Oakbrook produces superb performances

by Annette Dixon

Singin' in the Rain is a performance that I would give five stars if I were using a star grading for reviews. This play has many sold out dates, so please book early if you want to see the play of a lifetime. George Zimm, a profession tap dancer and teacher mentioned to me that this was a must see, their tapping is excellent. Singin' in the Rain runs until January 13 and I am sure you won't be disappointed with this production. My guest and I sat in the second from the last row and we still had the best view for this extraordinary musical/dance play. We could see the choreography perfectly and because of the large cast, we could watch them go on and off stage, with an impeccable presence. Not only is the dancing great but the singing, and elocution perfect.

It was my delight to be able to see the actor, Matthew Crowle, as Cosmo Brown. He has the gracefulness of Fred Astaire, my favorite male dancer. Some may not realize that he toured and tapped around the country with Tommy Tune in Doctor Doolittle.

Jenny Guse who portrays Kathy Seldon is by far a fantastic actor and singer. I was enthralled with her perfect pitch and her precise stage presence. Believe or not she is an accomplished actor for she portrayed Kathy Seldon so well that I didn't recognize her after the performance.

Have to mention the best professional Drury Lane cast is led by Tony Yazbeck,as Don Lockwood. Tony surprised me as a tap dancer, although he is from Broadway and is in command of his lead in this production, somehow the professionalism of each actor shines through to make this production a universal hit.

With award winner Roberta Duchak serving as Musical Director and Choreographed by Amber Mak with Matthew Crowle choreographing the numbers of "Fit as a Fiddle", "Make 'em Laugh", "Moses Supposes," and "Good Morning", again make it a hit. The elaborate scenery is conceived by Jeff award winning designer Kevin Depinet. The glamorous set is further enhanced by vibrant lighting designed by Julie Mack and the stunning array of costumes by Maggie Hoffman. Sound Design is by Ray Nardelli and Wig Design is by Heather Flemming.

Singin' in the Rain is a family production and ticket prices start as low as $20 for students. In fact, Hickory Creek School in Frankfort brought their 6, 7, and 8th grade choir students to see Singin' in the Rain recently. They were so good you would have enjoyed seeing them enjoying this production.

Seniors, don't forget the matinees start as low as $29 and $43.75 for a matinee luncheon package. For reservations, call Drury Lane Theatre box office at 630-530-0111.

The Christmas Schooner is a Musical

The Christmas Schooner is at the Mercuy Theater at 3745 N. Southport, Chicago now through December 30, 2012. This is a whole family heart warming story of the first Christmas tree ship and the family who risked their lives to fill Chicago with the Christmas spirit.

The shipwreck of the Rouse Simmons, known as 'The Christmas Tree Ship', served as inspiration for The Christmas Schooner. Her captain and crew risked the notoriously violent winter lake to bring Christmas trees from Michigan's Upper Peninsula to Chicago's German immigrants. Each year, Captain Herman Schuenemann would sell trees right off of the ship at the Clark Street Docks, and was known to give free trees to the needy. On November 23, 1912, the ship was swept up in a terrible storm. After the shipwreck there were other Captains that continued the journey with trees from Michigan. Even in the recent years the enactment continued and donations of trees were given to the needy around Christmas time.

The Christmas Schooner is written by Chicago favorites John Reeger (book) and Julie Shannon (music and lyrics) and stars returning cast member Karl Hamilton as "Peter Stossel", Jeff Award winner Cory Goodrich as "Alma Stossel," and Jeff Award winner Jim Sherman as "Gustav Stossel". The production is once again helmed by the Jeff-award winning team of L. Walter Stearns (director). Eugene Dizon (musical director) and Brenda Didier (choreographer). The scenic design is by Jacqueline and Richard Penrod, with costume design by Carol Blanchard and lighting designed by Jason Epperson.

Mercury Theater revived the tradition with a full orchestra and an all star cast, garnering a "Best Production" nomination for the 2012 Jeff Awards

The Mercury Theater is an intimate jewel-box in the heart of a sophisticated neighborhood of restaurants and shopping just steps from Wrigley Field. It adjoins two restaurants; Cullen's Bar and Grill and Deleece, who offer dining and libations before and after the show. Early in 2012, the Mercury debuted new audience amenities, including new spacious restrooms and an open air box office. The Christmas Schooner is continuing until December. 30, 2012, and you can call for tickets at 773-325-1700 or visit wwwmercurytheaterchicago.com

The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey is a must see

by Annette Dixon

Provision Theatre Company has had some problems in the past years staying abreast monetarily, but this is one theatre group that can use a generous sponsor.

I have had the honor to see three productions at this theatre in the past and have enjoy the contents of these plays.

Timothy Gregory, the artistic director and writer is a most unique person, because he takes an interest in wholesome entertainment and keeps the flow of people who are committed to family structured events. I have been in the audience where one young person would raise his eyebrows in a disapproving manner, because the line may be a bit to old fashioned, but his date smiled and loved the old fashion idea. We need to see more of Timothy Gregory's writing.

Back by popular demand at the Provision Theatre Company is The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey, directed by Provision Theater Artistic Director Timothy Gregory and staring Provision Theater Company Member Susan Moniz and Chicago's James Rank.

The production runs until December 23, 2012 and the parking is free. The music is fantastic and we even have musical entertainment before the play begins. The music is by Michael Mahler and based on the award winning book by Susan Wojciechowski. This children book garnished many awards, especially the New York Time Book Review Editor's Choice. The play stars James Rank as Jonathon Toomey and Susan Moniz as Sarah McDowell, with Mary Redmoon, Kevin O'Brien, Steven Lyons, Angela Alise Johnson, Jessica Thigpen, Bill Chamberlain, and June Miller. Children's Ensemble includes Nate Becker, Michael Jostes, Jack Edwards and Eden Elyse Strong. The show will feature Scenic Design by Inseung Park, Lighting Design by Mike Stanfill; and Costume Design by Rossella Nitti. Technical Director is John Gedeon., Stage Manager is Kari Warning and Production Manager is Alfredo Aguilar.

The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey will close December 23. Ticket prices range from $10 to $32 and groups of 10 or more receive 10% off. For reservations, 312-455-0066 www.provisiontheater.org. For group sales, please call 312-455-0066.

Michael Salinas and Guy Massey

Failure: A Love Story is a magical musical fable

by Annette Dixon

This particular production was not especially a Christmas piece, but very well written and funny, that is if you don't take life too seriously. It is a story about three sisters who have died through uncertain circumstances which the playwright wrote to be hilarious. I had found some humor in those circumstances, but my guest thought it to be extremely hilarious. I guess it depends on your sense of humor.

I was looking for someone to say that this play was factual in many instances, that did not occur, so therefore the play did keep me interested enough to keep an ear open. It ends December 30th and it may be something to see other than a Christmas play. There will be additional performances on Wednesday, December 19 at 2:00 pm and Wednesday, December 26 at 7:30 pm.

Failure: A Love Story is at the Victory Gardens Biograph Theater located at 2433 N. Lincoln Avenue, in the heart of Chicago's Lincoln Park neighborhood. Ticket prices are reasonable and you can contact the Box Office at 773-871-3000 or victorygardens.org for more information.

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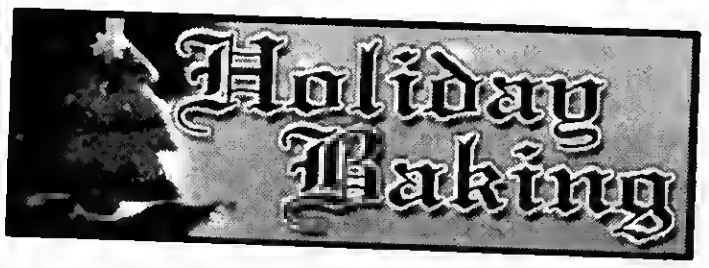


Cake pops treats!

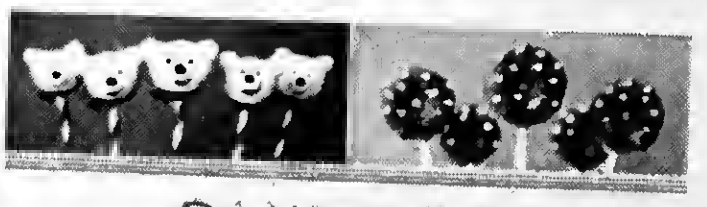
(NAPSA)-This holiday season, you can make your celebration really pop-by making cake pops.

They're delicious, adorable and easy to create with the help of a holiday-themed cookbook, "Cake Pops Holidays by Bakerella," a follow-up to the New York Times best-seller "Cake Pops."

Star blogger Bakerella-Angie Dudley-has made cake pops the sweet baked treats that are so popular. Her new book shows how to make more than 20 different winter-themed cake pop creations including adorable little Christmas trees, silly snowmen, tiny gingerbread houses and many more.

The book includes step-by-step instructions and plenty of expert guidance, giving you the skills to make them, decorate them, display them or wrap them up for gifting. There are even tips and tricks for transporting and shipping them so your precious pops arrive safely.

To learn more or to order the book for yourself or as a gift (which is also available at book- and cooking stores), go to www.amazon.com.



You can make cute and clever decorated treats for the holidays.

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Blueberry coffee cake warms those chilly mornings

(NAPSA)-When the temperature drops, a cinnamon-scented kitchen is especially warm and inviting. Savor the warmth every time you bake a Blueberry Coffee Cake. The classic recipe here, rich with sour cream and dense with luscious blueberries, is a blue-ribbon winner! And a bonus-because it's made with reduced-fat products, the calories are relatively low for a treat that tastes so indulgent.

Blueberries-fresh and frozen-are abundantly available through the winter months, so you can enjoy Blueberry Coffee Cake and all the blueberry dishes you love anytime you like. Find a large collection of recipes, nutrition information and more at www.LittleBlueDynamos.com.

Blueberry Coffee Cake makes a great breakfast, snack or dessert anytime of year.

Blueberry Coffee Cake

Topping:
1/3 cup rolled oats
1/3 cup flour
1/4 cup sugar
1 1/4 teaspoons cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon salt
3 tablespoons butter, softened

Cake:
1 2/3 cups flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
6 tablespoons butter, softened
1 cup sugar
2 large eggs
1/2 cup reduced-fat sour cream
1/4 cup fat-free half-and-half
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 cups fresh or frozen (not thawed) blueberries

Preheat oven to 350° F. Spray a 9 x 9-inch baking pan with nonstick spray. Make the topping: In a small bowl, stir oats, flour, sugar, cinnamon and salt. Add butter and blend until crumbly. Set aside. Make the cake batter: In a medium bowl, stir together flour, baking powder and salt; set aside. In a large mixing bowl, add butter and sugar; with an electric mixer, beat until fluffy, about 1 minute. Add the eggs, sour cream, half-and-half and vanilla; beat until well blended, about 1 minute. Add the flour mixture; beat on low speed to combine, scraping the sides with a rubber spatula, about 30 seconds. Increase speed to medium and mix just until well blended, about 30 seconds. With a rubber spatula, gently fold in the blueberries. Turn batter into prepared pan. Sprinkle the topping mixture evenly on top; press lightly. Bake until a wooden pick inserted in the center comes out clean, 40 to 45 minutes. Let cool in pan 30 minutes before serving.

Yield: 16 portions

Per portion: 216 calories; 33 g carbohydrate; 8 g total fat; 5 g saturated fat; 1 g fiber

A healthier life begins in the kitchen

by Chef Nikki Shaw

(NAPSA)-Chefs and parents are joining forces in the fight against obesity. Good health depends on the support of both professional kitchens, where we create healthy menu options, and in homes, where we put healthy food on the table for our families.

For the past couple of years, I have partnered with the Network for a Healthy California to help improve the health of families, especially those that are at greater risk of obesity and suffer from serious health problems. With the help of the Network, I want to empower parents to make healthy changes for their families with the same tips and recipes that have helped me be a successful chef and mom.

To fight obesity, we have to make healthy changes in our kitchens, in our neighborhoods as well as in grocery stores, schools, places of worship and in workplaces. You can start today by joining the movement and liking the Network for a Healthy California on Facebook.

Small steps can make a big difference

• Cook as a family. Involve your kids in picking recipes and choosing healthy fruits and vegetables for every meal. Show them how to prepare healthy dishes and snacks so they can feel they're helping.

• Keep moving. Set an example and make time every day to enjoy activities like walking, hiking or dancing.

• Make it fun! Prepare snacks or meals that kids will want by choosing colorful combinations, putting fruits or vegetables onto a stick or cutting them into fun shapes.

One of my favorite dishes for fall is the Easy Turkey Skillet Dinner.

Easy Turkey Skillet Dinner

Nonstick cooking spray
3/4 pound lean ground turkey
1 medium onion, peeled and chopped
3 tomatoes, chopped
3 tablespoons tomato paste
1 teaspoon each dried basil, oregano and garlic powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
2 medium zucchini, sliced

Spray nonstick cooking spray in a large skillet.

Brown turkey and onion over medium heat until turkey is cooked through and onion is soft, about 10 minutes.

Add tomatoes, tomato paste and seasonings. Simmer over medium heat for 10 minutes.

Add zucchini and cook for 5 minutes more. Serve while hot.

• Celebrity Chef Nikki Shaw hosts "Today's Flavor" on Sirius XM and was a contestant on the Food Network's search for "The Next Food Network Star."

For more information on the Network for a Healthy California, visit www.facebook.com/networkforahealthycalifornia.

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Village View

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SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 39 | Number 12 | December 18, 2012

Burbank, Evergreen Park, Hickory Hills, Justice, Oak Lawn

Justice takes a positive turn

by Jan Glaz

Village President Kris Wasowicz bestowed his thanks and compliments to the Board of Trustees at the December 10th Village of Justice Board of Trustees Meeting in regards to the city's fiscal stability.

It was brought to the attention of the council that the Chicago Tribune had rated towns in six counties in the Chicagoland urea according to debt and the Village of Justice ranked near zero. "Three years ago we were down to $6 million dollars and lost $3 million in revenue and it was hard to provide services and pay our bills on time. I have to say I am very proud of this Board and thank you very much," said Wasowicz. Trustee Ed Rusch Jr. announced positive news regarding home sales in the Village. Several foreclosed homes sold in the $67,000 range, other homes were averaging from $140,000 to $189,000. In addition, Trustee Symonds disclosed the city paid off the lease on its dump truck one year early.

Before the meeting adjourned, three motions followed, all carried: a motion to accept a quote from the Intelligent Cloud Company to provide a Hosted Exchange for the Village Administration and Finance Departments for up to 40 users at an annual charge of $2,448.00 each after applying a Customer Loyalty Discount and an Annual Prepayment Discount; the acceptance of a Business License of First Step Holdings LLC, Inc. (a commercial development company) doing business at 9050 W. 81st Street, in Justice and a quote from the Assurance Ageney to place the Village's Property and Casualty Insurance with Munich RE at a total annual Premium of $99,044.00 and to renew coverage with IPRF at an annual premium of $91,558.00 for a total cost of $190,602.00 which is $3,500.00 less than the total premium for the previous year and with better coverage.

No room at the inn for Hickory Hills seniors

by Jan Glaz

A resident, representing a long list of senior citizens, voiced her concerns about access to the city's senior center on December 13th at the Hickory Hills City Council Meeting. Mayor Mike Howley admitted to a space problem in regards to the city's senior center facility. Howley was aware of approximately 40 seniors at present on the list and that the wait time can be counted in years. The concerned resident complimented the city on the assortment of functions offered to seniors citing education, recreation, entertainment and travel. She noted that there are other senior opportunities in the area but the Hickory Hills program is the most popular. Due to fire code occupancy limitations, scores of seniors cannot participate in the room where luncheons and other attractive socializing events are held. Mayor Howley questioned Building Commissioner John Moirano about adding space to the center's main gathering room by removing a wall that connected to a back room. Moirano, familiar with the site, agreed that it was possible and if the wall were removed the room would accommodate a greater number of seniors. Trustee McHugh made a motion to do just that. The motion carried without objection.

The Board of Trustees voted to accept the business license for Flying High Sports and Recreation Center doing business at 9911 South 78th Avenue. The business has been operating in Countryside, Illinois for the past 21 years and is excited to open a 2nd location in Hickory Hills. Flying High Sports offers training programs for gymnastics, cheer leading, and martial arts. In addition, on weekends they host birthday parties and other recreational events. "This is going to be a nice addition to our town," Howley said.

Alderman Tom McAvoy announced an annual event that has taken place in Hickory Hills for decades: the Annual Christmas Raffle. The Sertoma Club Christmas Raffle is one of the club's main fundraising activities. Sertoma (stands for Service to Mankind) is a social service organization dedicated to helping the hearing impaired and youth in general. McAvoy stated that if you can use $300 first prize, $150 second prize, or $50 third prize to make your Christmas a little more merry then take a chance on it. The raffle drawing will be Friday December 21st; the ticket price is $1.00 each or 6 for $5.00. Contact Alderman Tom McAvoy, email aldermanmcavoy@hickoryhillsil.org or call the village hall at 708-598-4800.

Village of Evergreen Park news

Evergreen Park Fire Department

"Keep The Wreath Red" Fire Safety Campaign

The holiday wreath displayed at the Fire Station is decorated with a string of red light bulbs.

In the event of a fire caused by holiday decorations, one red bulb will be replaced with a white bulb. We are urging all residents to help "Keep The Wreath Red" by practicing holiday fire safety in their homes. Visit www.evergreenpark-ill.com for a complete list of easy, common sense steps that residents can take to help reduce the risk of fire.

The Office of Citizens Services

Florida Trip: Amelia Island, St. Augustine, Jacksonville

Saturday, February 23 to Sunday, March 3, 2013

Cost: Double, $665; Single, $905; Triple, $645

Includes motorcoach transportation, 8 nights lodging, 14 meals, visits to the Fountain of Youth and historical Kingsley Plantation; narrated cruise of St. John's River; Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum. Final Payment due 12/29/12. Call (708) 422-8776.

Recreation Department Happenings

The Recreation Department will partner with Beyond The Arc Academy to hold two great Youth Basketball programs at the Activity Center, 3220 W. 98th Street.

Holiday Break Offensive Skills Camp - Dec. 26, 27, 28, 2012 and Jan 2, 3, 4, 2013

Beyond The Arc Academy Sunday League (January 13th - March 3rd, 2013)

Registration for both at the Rec Department!

Ice Rink is Open!

Open Skate: Tuesdays-Fridays, 5pm - 7pm; Saturdays & Sundays, 1pm- 6pm

Hockey: Mon-Tues-Wed, 7pm - 9pm; Saturdays & Sundays, 6pm - 8pm

Times are tentative; for more information, call (708) 229-3373

Youth Department

The Drop-In Center is open Tuesday through Friday, 3pm-5pm! A variety of activities, games and social activities are available for youths from 5th grade through High School. Call the Evergreen Park Youth Commission for additional information and opportunities call (708) 229-3377.

2nd Annual Indoor Garage Sale/Antique Market

Saturday, February 9, 2013. Evergreen Park High School Main Gym

Sponsored by EPCHS Athletic Boosters

Reserve your table soon! $25 per table, 2 for $40

To reserve, call (708) 424-7400 x264 or visit www.evergreenpark.org

Information for the Military

Family or friends meeting arriving military personnel (or accompanying departing personnel) may obtain a GATE PASS from the air carrier servicing that particular person. This allows the non-military persons) to go beyond the security checkpoint and greet them at the gate, or stay with their service person until departure.

Parents/guests may also accompany their military at the USO (United Service Organizations) at the various locations around the world. The USO is in Concourse "C" at Midway, and Terminal 3 Concourse "L" at O'Hare.

More information can be found at www.USO.org/illinois

School District 124 News

SD 124 provides free screening of 3, 4 and 5-year olds (not of kindergarten age) to assess development in Vision and Hearing / Speech and Language / Knowledge of Basic Concepts / Fine and Gross Motor Skills. Children eligible can quality for special programs. For more information, call Jean Hector at (708) 423-0950, ext. 2140

Two Queen of Peace students honored with Sheriff's Youth Service Medal of Honor

Queen of Peace High School, located at 7659 S. Linder Ave. in Burbank, is proud to report that two Peace students have earned the Cook County Sheriff's Youth Service Medal of Honor. Michelle Frederick (St. Gerald) and Monica Zaragoza (St. Bruno) received the annual award, which recognizes the efforts of Cook County residents in grades 9-12 who have provided meaningful volunteer service to their communities. The students gave more than 100 hours of their time to achieve this honor.

Monica Zaragoza (left) and Michelle Frederick from Queen of Peace High School.

Service is a core value at Queen of Peace High School, and it has become an important way of life for students. "Service has made a huge impact on my life," said Michelle Frederick. "One of the best feelings in the world is seeing how your service has benefited those around you. It allows me to understand that my service has made a difference and has helped other people."

"The value of my community service to others makes me feel helpful and wanted," Monica Zaragoza added. "I feel like community service has helped me to become a better person."

The students were honored in the 25th annual Youth Medal of Honor ceremony held at the University of Illinois-Chicago Pavilion.

For more information about Queen of Peace High School,go to www.queenofpeacehs.org or call (708) 458-7600.

Village View

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FAR SOUTH EDITION
Oak Forest, Orland Park, Tinley Park

Volume 10 | Number 24 | December 18, 2012

New Teen Nite Club not just for teens

by Jan Glaz

A request for a Text Amendment and a Special Use Permit for a dance hall, Oxygen Teen Nite Club, to be located at 5200 West 159th Street, was put under a microscope before approval at the December 11th Oak Forest City Council Meeting. In an effort to project the consequences of opening a teen club, not just for teens, the Board of Trustees engaged in a question and answer discussion between themselves, Community Development Director Adam Dotson, and Petitioner (owner) James Marcanio. Of primary concern, the use of the night club for patrons ranging from 16 to 22 years of age, supervision of curfew for minors, adequate safety and security. The upscale club will be open for teens to dance and socialize on the weekends, serve beverages minus alcohol, and possibly food. Approval of a Special Use Permit incorporates conditions: submission, prior to occupancy, of a Standard Operational Procedure Safety manual for police and fire department review; a complete fire sprinkler installation agreement with the Fire Department; confirmation from the landlord agreeing to complete façade and landscaping improvements by July 1, 2013 and submission of a parking agreement between the Petitioner and The Original Pancake House. The city has the right to close the club if stipulations are not met. Trustee Clemons and Trustee Ensign cast a no vote that was crushed by a 5-2 yes vote.

The City Council also approved a petition request to support a class 8 Tax Incentive for commercial property located at 4821 W. 153rd Street, for Tim Pearson and Scott Poremba, petitioners and owners of ServPro Cleaning and Restoration, which is a franchise. They will be locating to Oak Forest from Tinley Park and bring eight employees, in addition they will be looking to hire two to four new employees in the next 12 months. As part of an ongoing municipal code review and at the request of Alderman Simon a recommendation to revise the composition and terms of office of the Veterans Commission was accepted by the board of trustees to increase membership by two members for a total of eleven. The city council then approved the appointment of Bob Small to the Oak Forest Veterans Commission.

From left to right: Amanda Canino (Tinley Park), Samantha Dorning (Orland Park), and Megan May Walsh (Frankfort)

CJB students speak to America's founding fathers

Students from Grades 6 and 8 at Cardinal Joseph Bernardin Catholic School (CJB) were invited to participate in the Veterans of Foreign Wars "Patriotic Pen" Essay Contest. Students were given the topic: "What Would I Tell America's Founding Fathers?" The entire student body was proud to learn that three students won first, second, and third place! Samantha Dorning of Orland Park, won 3rd place. Megan May Walsh of Frankfort, won 2nd Place. Amanda Canino of Tinley Park, won first place! The essays have been entered in a broader district competition.

The Contest was sponsored by Bremen Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 2791, in Tinley Park. "This contest is an excellent opportunity for students to reflect on the lessons they have learned in American history. Students are able to creatively express their thoughts and beliefs in the essays," said Barb Kristin, CJB's junior high history teacher.

Tinley Park announces 0% tax increase

by Jan Glaz

An Ordinance to Consider Levying Taxes for Corporate Purposes for the Village of Tinley Park for the current fiscal year, first day of May 2012 ending on the thirtieth day of April 2013 met with approval at the December 4th Board of Trustees Meeting. The property tax levy will be set at $24,953,225. This represents a 0% increase over the previous year's extension in total dollars. The levy amount is net of the abatements of debt service in a total amount of $5,305,728. If these funds were not abated, the total required levy would be $30,258,953 and would represent an increase of 21%. Mayor Edward Zahrocki commented that the village has been doing abatements this way for 31 years. "In other communities homeowners have to contact the Village and the Village has to check and send the abatements to them... I thank the entire Board for putting together a levy with 0%," said Zabrocki.

Other Business: The Board of Trustees voted final approval for Authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement by and Between the Illinois Office of the Comptroller and the Village of Tinley Park regarding access to the Comptroller's Local Debt Recovery Program. Trustee Leoni explained that the Illinois Comptroller's Office developed the Program as an additional means for local governments to collect monies that are owed to them by individuals and businesses. Once the State Comptroller's Office has the information about debts owed they search their database of amounts owed to the State or participating local governments. Some of the key features of the program: There is an appeal period for debtors after which funds are withheld and remitted to the participating local governments; virtually any debts owed to a municipality can be collected; collection is limited to amounts greater than $50 per past due entity; amounts cannot be older than 7 years; no cost to the participating government, if a match is found the debtor is charged a $15 fee and most important, collection can come from virtually any amounts to be paid by the State, including state employees. This includes tax refunds, lottery winnings, and regular commercial payments made by the State.

Orland deems bike path a priority

by Jan Glaz

As part of the Village's comprehensive plan and ongoing transportation plan, multi-modes of transportation throughout the Village have been identified as a priority. On December 3rd at the Village of Orland Park Board of Trustees Meeting the City Council, after a full bid review, awarded a bid to D Construction of Coal City, Illinois to provide construction for a new bike path between Wolf Road and 108th Avenue along 153rd Street. This link will connect existing paths at IL Route 7 (Wolf Road) and 108th Avenue. The 153rd Street Bike Path was approved and budgeted in 2012. The total budget for the project is $700,000. A bid amount in the amount of $518,139.66 from D Construction of Coal City, Illinois is below the engineer's estimate.

In addition a contract was awarded to LePretre Excavating of Orland Park, Illinois in the amount of $32,200.00. This work includes the installation of 1,150 feet of 8" diameter drainage pipe including backfill material from 153rd Street north to Spring Creek. The Village has been working with the property owner to install this pipe to alleviate drainage issues along 153rd Street in anticipation of the Bike Path project. The total combined cost is $550,339.66 which is below the Capital Improvement Program budget of $700,000.00.

Of Interest: Before the meeting adjourned officials granted a Special Use Permit to operate and maintain a sport specific training center as an indoor recreation area in two units; 5,500 square feet of an existing building in the Beemsterboer Industrial Park located at 10649 W. 163rd Place. It is unlike fitness gyms or health clubs in that it primarily deals with patrons (e.g. student athletes) by appointment whose workout sessions are strictly sport related and focused. The business is also not membership based and doesn't attract traffic in the same way a fitness or health club attracts. The proposed land use fits within the Manufacturing District as an indoor recreation area, which requires a special use permit to locate in the district. Indoor recreation areas are allowed in the district via special use permit to monitor the number of non-industrial uses and to also mitigate any use intensity issues that may be generated (like traffic).

Village View

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SOUTH SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 13 | Number 24 | December 18, 2012

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

Palos Heights recognizes students police cadets and police officers

by Matt Mayer

The Dec 4 Palos Heights City Council meeting commenced with Mayor Robert Straz recognizing the following Palos Heights students and police cadets who received the 2012 Cook County Sheriff's Youth Medal of Honor award: Dakota Allen: Desmond Athy: Benjamin Bruce: Brian Flynn; Gahriel Gallo; Samantha Georg; Tyler Luke; Lucero Mallo: David Osman; Kaelyn Pace; Luke Pappas; Sarah Sumoski and Lukas Valickas.

Straz also recognized Palos Heights Police Officers who received the following awards at the Cook County Sheriff's Law Enforcement Awards ceremony on Nov.19. Detectives Timothy Holder, Gerry Wodka, and Mike Yott reeeived the Meritorious Unit Citation for Outstanding Service and Professionalism. Officer Chris Hodorowicz received the Award of Merit for Outstanding Service and Professionalism as an Individual.

Other highlights: The city council approved resolution R-17-12 suhmitted by City Clerk Tom Brown to estahlish the 2013 schedule for city council meetings. A finance committee request to adopt an ordinance providing for the tax levy for the city from Jan.1, 2012 to Dec. 31, 2012 and a finance committee resolution proportionately reducing all levies except corporate was also approved. A payment request to Crowley Shepherd Asphalt for $56,306.02 for the puhlic works parking lot repaving project was also approved.

Worth approves energy broker

by Matt Mayer

Officials at the Dec. 4 Worth Board of Trustees approved Illinois Energy Aggregation LLC (IEA) as their energy broker. Residents approved a referendum. which was placed on the November election hallot, asking if resident's desired to have the village seek municipal aggregation. the purchasing of electricity through a broker rather than directly from ComEd.

(IEA) Principle Partner Dennis Brennan said that said they will began seeking hids from seven to ten companies during the week of December 10 for the village to choose from. Bids from all firms seeking a contract with the village should be received by Dec. 18, said Brennan.

IEA will solicit for one, two and three year contracts. Once the village board approves, residents will have a 21-day opt-out period or be automatically entered into the new program. Residents are currently paying 8.36 cents per kilowatt-hour. Aggregation may bring this rate lower than 5 cents per kilowatt-hour. ComEd's have recently risen due to the change of seasons, said Brennan. "We still thing we can get a good price for you" he added.

If a resident or small business is currently receiving their electricity from an independent company, that contract must be terminated prior to the contract with the village energy provider, said Brennan. If the contract is not terminated, residents or businesses will not be included on the ComEd address list that the independent contractor receives, thus eliminating them from the program, said Brennan. ComEd will continue he responsible for delivering electricity, meter reading, and repairs and maintenance on the lines. IEA has worked with Chicago Ridge and Evergreen Park - both approved a two-year contract with Verde Energy Inc.

Robert Streit is the other principle partner of IEA and an Oak Lawn Trustee. IEA has offiees at 155 W. Washington Street, Chicago, IL and 9713 Southwest Highway, Oak Lawn, IL. Additional information regarding IEA may he obtained by visiting their website www.illionisenergyaggregation.com.

Palos Park Public Library events

Registration has begun for Night Owl Story time for children ages 4 to 5 yrs old at the Palos Park Public Library. The session begins Thursday, Jan.10 and runs thru Thursday, Feb. 28 at 7:00 p.m. Listen to stories, sing songs, and make special crafts at the Palos Park Public Library. Parents and caregivers must remain in the library during story time.

Registration has begun for Good Morning Story time for children ages 2 to 3 yrs old at the Palos Park Public Library. The session hegins Wednesday, Jan. 9 and runs thru Wednesday, Feb. 27 at 10:00 a.m. Listen to stories, sing songs, and make special crafts at the Palos Park Public Library. Parents and caregivers must remain in the library during story time.

Registration has begun for Good Morning Story time for children ages 2 to 5 yrs old at the Palos Park Public Library. The session hegins Tuesday, Jan.8 and runs thru Tuesday, Feb.26 at 10:15 a.m. Listen to stories, sing songs, and make special crafts at the Palos Park Public Library. Parents and caregivers must remain in the library during story time.

Children ages 4 and up are invited to listen to stories of snow adventures, and make a jewel snowflake craft at the "It's a Snowflake World!" story time on Saturday, Jan. 5th at 11 a.m. at the Palos Park Puhlic Library.

Make reading an important part of your child's world at the Palos Park Public Lihrary Winter

Reading program "Be a Smart Cookie and Read!" The program begins Jan.5 thru Feb.23 for toddlers thru kindergarten. Reach the reading goal of 25 books and earn chances to win prizes.

Call the lihrary to register at 708-448-1530. The Palos Park Public Library is located at 12330 Forest Glen Blvd., Palos Park, IL.

There will be no story time session the week of Jan. 21 due to the lihrary's annual magazine sale.

From left. First Midwest Half Marathon organizer and owner of Running for Kicks Mel Diab, CSCVB Director of Marketing and Administration Kim Kislowski. City of Palos Heights Alderman Jeff Prestinario hold up a check for $5,370 for promotion of the First Midwest Half Marathon.

Chicago Southland CVB awards $5,370 for tourism promotion

The Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau awarded $5,370 to the First Midwest Half Marathon for tourism promotion. The grant was funded through the Chicago Southland CVB's Local Tourism Matching Grant program, and will cover 30% of the design and printing of promotional materials and advertisements in Runners Word, Chicago Athlete and Running Times.

"With accolades from the Chicago Area Runners Association and the 2010 Governor's Hometown Award, the First Midwest Half Marathon has proven itself as the premier annual athletic event in the Chicago Southland," said CSCVB President Jim Garrett. "The CVB is proud to continue our support of this great race and the 2,500 runners who will come to Palos Heights for the 2013 hall' marathon."

The Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau developed the Local Tourism Matching Grant program in 1991, and since the program's inception has awarded over $900,000 in grants. Annually, the CVB can award up to $46,000 in five grant cycles. The CVB's Local Tourism Matching Grant Program is designed for not-for-profit organizations or municipalities for promotion of their festivals, events, and attractions targeted to visitors outside the Chicago Southland region.

The Chicago Southland CVB periodically hosts Grant Writing Workshops to assist in preparation of the application. The next Grant Writing Workshop will he January 3, 2013, at 10:30 a.m. at the CSCVB offices in Lansing, Ill. For information ahout the Local Tourism Matching Grant program, go to VisitChicagoSouthland.com/about_grant.cfm or call the CSCVB at 708-895-8200.

Village View

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B-MAC EDITION

Volume 6 | Number 24 | December 18, 2012

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Nathan Hale primary student's work featured on Green Screen Adventures

Nathan Hale Primary School third grader Abby Horton.

The award-winning children's TV series Green Screen Adventures (GSA) has selected a story written by Abby Horton, a third grade student at Nathan Hale Primary School in Crestwood, that was adapted and performed by professional actors and broadcast across Chicagoland and the country. The story, A Giant World, was featured on MeTV. This tale of gigantic proportions is also posted on GSA's website, www.greenscreenadventures.tv. To view the video, type A Giant World in the search field. Horton's exciting tale is about two girls, Emily and Grace, who go to an oversized world where everything that is small is huge. The girls travel around on a giant bumblebee and go on a series of adventures in order to save the queen from an evil enrse.

Green Screen Adventures is a television series that gives students in first through eighth grade a real world connection to their writing and a way to see the impact of their work beyond the classroom. It builds enthusiasm for writing by featuring students' essays, stories, reports and poems, using story-theater, songs, game shows and puppetry to adapt their work. A diverse ensemble of actors uses a virtual set in a green screen studio to adapt and perform the stories.

Cook County School District 130 serves nearly 4,100 students at thirteen school sites. The district serves portions of the communities of: Alsip, Blue Island, Crestwood and Robbins.

Crestwood welcomes additional sidewalk along Central Avenue

by Jan Glaz

City officials voted to accept the Resolution Authorizing an Inter-Governmental Agreement between the Village of Crestwood and the County of Cook Providing for the Installation of Sidewalks on a Portion of Central Avenue from 135th Street to 127th Street, at the Crestwood Village Board Meeting held on December 6th. The project includes sidewalk along the east parkway of Central Avenue from existing sidewalk stub (near the Crestwood Terrace Nursing Care facility) northerly to 131st Street. The resolution states in part that the sidewalks will be installed to facilitate the free flow of traffic and ensure the safety of pedestrians and the motoring public and that the Village will share in the cost of construction related to the new sidewalk and assume certain maintenance responsibilities upon completion of the project. The County and Village share shall be equal to 50% of the actual construction costs and is estimated at $49,161.00, based on a total estimate cost of $98,322.00.

Notable end notes: Scavenger Service Applications for 2013 received a positive vote. The accepted Scavenger Services are: Republic Services d/b/a Allied Waste (Groen Waste); Homewood Disposal Service, Inc. d/b/a NuWay Disposal Service, Inc.; Waste Management of Illinois and I-Corp d/b/a Environmental Recycling. Each pays a license fee of $500 to conduct pick-ups in the Village of Crestwood. Crestwood officials agreed to authorize the hiring of a special Counsel to the Village in regard to labor and employment matters and the final resolution sanctioned by the Board of Trustees, a Resolution Rescinding a contract, between the Village of Crestwood and Continental Construction Co., Inc.

Midlothian recognizes recipients of prestigious Sheriff's Youth Award

by Jan Glaz

Sheriff's Youth Service Medals of Honor were presented to four students hy Mayor Terrence Stephens on December 12th at the Village of Midlothian Board Meeting. Accepting the awards, congratulations and grand applause for one thousand hours of community service: Jerome Daniels; Francinet Perez, a two year recipient; Mike Sucharzewski and Nicole Ames. "As an educator", said Stephans, "I know when college's ask you to fill out an application or people who give out scholarships ask you to fill out an application one of the questions is always what have you done for community service, when you can say you won the Sheriff's Community Service Medal of Honor that is huge. I can't say enough, how proud we are of the students winning this award."

A garhage rate resolution fee increase carried in regards to raising revenue for the City. Rate fees were scheduled over a four year period heginning January of 2013, bringing approximately $50,000 per year to the village. Monies paid out on approval for invoices for work completed on the Water Main Project totaled $1,460.00 to Robinson Engineering and for work completed to the 2011 CDBG grant Water Main Replacement on Ahbottsford Road, $1,253.75, approved by Robinson Engineering.

Mayor Stephens proclaimed National Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Prevention Month for the month of December, in Midlothian, before moving to adjourn. The proclamation in part stated that the December holiday season is traditionally one of the most deadly times of the year for impaired driving and that for thousands of families across the nation the holidays are a time to remember loved ones lost. Motor vehicle crashes killed 918 people in Illinois in 2011. The City of Midlothian's is partnering with the Illinois Department of Transportation's Division of Traffic Safety and other traffic safety groups in an effort to make roads and streets safe.

Alsip boat launch Catch 22

by Jan Glaz

Economic woes are washing away Alsip's Boat Launch. Trustee James T. Quinn provided disturbing information regarding the Boat Launch at the December 3rd Village Board Meeting. A lease agreement with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) will expire in April of 2013. The agreement requires a costly Environmental Study. Quinn reported that the MWRD will not extend the present lease agreement; however they can issue a permit for one year, under the same terms. There are two options, both entail a financial burden: Give up the lease and proceed to remove all structures and equipment, or ask for a one year permit to allow the Village more time to make its decision. The Park District could step in, but the Village of Alsip Park District, a separate entity, is not showing a healthy interest in adopting the Boat Launch.

Option 1: Dismantling the Boat Launch and selling or donating the equipment is cost prohibitive from an investment standpoint. Trustee Quinn's predecessor, Trustee Sheila McGreal, was instrumental in the beautification of the Boat Launch. The Village spent money to renovate the building, install new lighting, new gates and a more weather resistant pier and dock, but due to the downturn economy, the Boat Launch isn't launching like it used to. Profits have diminished and the Village cannot afford to pay wages and upkeep without amiable income. Option 2: by accepting the 1 year permit the Village at the end of that period must sign an agreement with MWRD under new stringent terms or remove the Boat Launch and all its structures. Trustee Quinn revealed that MWRD under a new agreement will be asking for a share of the profits and they are also going to request that the Village erect a large sign, at Village cost, giving credit to the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District. An upcoming meeting will decide which option the Village will approve.

Mayor Patrick Kitching voiced his opinion before a motion carried to approve an ordinance amending the number of authorized Class F Liquor Licenses. The Mayor is against issuing more liquor licenses to gas stations in the TIF district from 119th to 123rd and Pulaski, since there are too many. "I can't give everyone in the TIF a liquor License, if a restaurant, no problem," said the Mayor.

An agenda item was tabled before the meeting adjourned: Approval for the Public Works Department to purchase a replacement GPS locating device, made by Trimble, at a cost not to exceed $7000. The matter will be up for vote again at the December 17th Village of Alsip Board Meeting.

Filing period for School Board candidates

An information packet regarding the April 9, 2013 School Board Election in Evergreen Park Elementary School District 124 is available in the Administrative Office at 9400 South Sawyer, Evergreen Park. Office hours are Monday – Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Board Candidates interested in running in the 2013 election should download a copy of the Candidate's Guide 2013 at www.elections.state.il.us/. This Guide includes instructions and necessary paperwork for filing. For additional questions, the State Board of Elections can be reached as follows:

State Board of Elections

James R. Thompson Center, Suite 14-100, Chicago, IL 60601. Telephone 312-814-6440

A school board candidate's nominating papers must be filed in the Administrative Office no earlier than 8:00 a.m. on December 17, 2012 and no later than 5:00 p.m. on December 26, 2010. (The District Office will be closed on December 24-25, 2012.) Candidates' names will appear on the election ballot in the order in which their nominating papers are received in the Administrative Office.

Four seats on the seven-member Board of Education will be filled at the April 9 election. Candidates elected will serve four-year terms expiring in April, 2017.

Village of Oak Lawn selects Verde Energy USA to supply low cost electricity to residents

The Village of Oak Lawn, Illinois ("Village") announced today that Verde Energy USA ("Verde") would become its electricity supplier of choice. Verde Energy USA, a leading alternative energy supplier currently serving over 50,000 customers in 12 municipalities in the Illinois market, participated in an open RFP (Request for Proposal) process following the passage of an electrical aggregation referendum on November 6, 2012. The RFP process was conducted by Progressive Energy Group and included multiple bids.

Under the terms of the agreement with Verde, residents will receive a two-year fixed rate of $0.05118/kWh, a savings up to 40% off current utility rates. Residents also have the option to elect 100% renewable energy supply, if so desired. "We are very pleased to have come out on top in the competitive bidding process, and we're excited about the opportunity to serve the residents of Oak Lawn," Thomas FitzGerald, President and CEO of Verde Energy USA. "As we have done in so many other communities in Illinois, we will deliver residents meaningful savings on their electricity bills, as well as helping them with programs to reduce their energy consumption."

Electric service under the newly negotiated rates is scheduled to begin in February 2013 and "opt-out" notifications will be mailed out on December 5, 2012. Verde Energy USA will work with Village officials to notify all eligible customers of the electric supply rate, terms and conditions, and their right to "opt-out" of the program. Residential and small commercial retail customers will have the right to "opt-out" of the aggregation program without penalty and remain with ComEd purchased electricity. Customers who do not "opt-out" can also leave the program at any time within the 24 month term without penalty.

In addition, Oak Lawn residents will have unlimited access to Verde Energy Savings Solutions (ESS) tools atwww.ilmunipower.com/oaklawn. These tools, available exclusively to Verde Energy USA customers, will allow Village residents to monitor and analyze their monthly energy usage, access information on how they can reduce their energy consumption, and purchase energy-saving products at a discount..

Verde Energy USA is a rapidly growing Retail Energy Supplier focused on the residential and small to mid-size commercial power markets. Through Verde Energy Solutions, its wholly-owned subsidiary, Verde aims to broaden and accelerate the adoption of state-of-the-art clean energy technologies. Headquartered in Norwalk Connecticut, Verde Energy USA has grown substantially since its market launch in November 2009. Currently servicing markets in Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Illinois and Ohio. Verde is strategically positioned for continued growth in new markets including New York, Massachusetts, and Maryland. For more information, visit www.verdeenergyusa.com.

Seeking nominees for Unsung Heroine Award

In recognition of Women's History Month, the Cook County Commissioner on Women's Issues will be sponsoring the Annual Unsung Heroine Award Celebration in March. This award recognizes women from each County District, who have made significant contributions to the well-being and betterment of their community through their volunteer efforts.

Cook County Commissioner Joan Patricia Murphy is seeking nominations that live in her 6th district for the Unsung Heroine Award. "These nominees are our neighbors, our mothers, our sisters, our friends. These women make a difference in our lives through their generous gift of their time, energy, expertise and leadership." All nominees must be involved in their community in a volunteer or professional capacity and be someone who has not received widespread recognition. Elected officials are not eligible.

Commissioner Murphy encourages all organizations or fellow citizens to submit entry nominations. Nomination entry forms will be available at Commissioner Joan Murphy's office located at 5405 W. 127th Street in Crestwood or by calling Commissioner Murphy's office at (708)389-2125. All nomination entries must be received by Friday, January 11th 2013.

Oak Lawn votes down proposed tax increases

by Matt Mayer

Officials at the Dec 11 Oak Lawn Board of Trustees meeting approved the removal of a proposed electricity tax rate increase, which was previously recommended by village manager Larry Deetjen from the agenda as a way to avert a property tax increase. A vote on a natural gas tax increase was also tabled. "The main goal you told me was do not raise property tax - if you don't want to move on it now, I respect that", said Deetjen. However what I don't understand is why the board isn't supportive of an electrical tax adjustment " said Deetjen.

Deetjen went on to say that Oak Lawn's electricity and natural gas tax rates are lower that surrounding municipalities, citing Palos Heights as an example. However Trustee Alex Olejniczak said. "We don't live in these other communities, we live in Oak Lawn. I want to focus on Oak Lawn. I like looking at what we as a board can do in the village", said Olejniczak.

Trustee Tom Phelan said increasing utility taxes would not attract people to Oak Lawn. "I agree with Trustee Olejniczak. It is easy to find different ways to find revenue", said Phelan. We're not paying higher property taxes but we are raising other taxes. That's not responsible, it's a recipe for disaster", said Phelan. "Perhaps we need to diversify the tax base and get away from a property tax increase, but in this situation it's reckless. How about we lower the property tax and attract people to move here." said Phelan.

Evergreen Park approves joint parking lot

by Matt Mayer

The Dec 3 Evergreen Park Board of Trustees meeting commenced with Mayor James Sexton honoring Howard Selkie and all the men and women who served our country. The village flags were lowered to half mask on Dec 7 in remembrance of Pearl Harbor Day.

The village board approved ordinance 21-2012 granting a parking use variation to allow parking on property, which is zoned "B" multi-family residential property at 9520 S. Troy Avenue. The variation to section 25-53.A of the village zoning code allows parking for employees and customers of the slated Culvers Restaurant at 9505-35 S. Kedzie Avenue and Chase Bank at 3157 W. 95th Street. This was in accordance with the recommendation of the Zoning Board of Appeals following a public hearing on Nov. 13.

The conditions set fourth for the variation are as follows: The parking lot must conform to the following stipulations: The tenants of the property at 9520 S. Troy Avenue shall be allowed the use of the parking lot on an equal basis with employees and customers of Culvers and Chase Bank; lighting, paving and storm drainage must be approved by the building commissioner and village engineer; parking must be use by both employees and customers so as to reduce traffic in the alley accessing the parking lot.

Santa visits have begun and can be scheduled through Christmas Eve. Additional information may be obtained by calling the Recreation Department at 708.229.2273. The municipal building will be open until 12:00 (noon) on Monday December 24 and closed on Christmas day. The municipal building will reopen with extended hours from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on December 26.

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We have found that through the years of publishing the readers are interested in general information and also local happenings within their community. Therefore because we are fully electronic, we will not be accepting faxed or mailed news releases.

American Idol gift wrapping event

American Idol is ringing in the holiday season with a gift for the people! Now through Monday, December 24, FOX and American Idol will be setting up a complimentary gift wrapping station at the Orland Square Mall where shoppers can have their purchases wrapped in exclusive Idol-themed paper. Fans will be able to get into the spirit just in time for the Season 12 premiere by watching clips from the show and streaming content on www.AmericanIdol.com. IDOL is partnering with the American Red Cross for this event and all proceeds will go to victims of Hurricane Sandy. People will be able to donate to the American Red Cross while having their gifts wrapped.

Orland Square – 288 Orland Square Dr., Orland Park, IL

Upper Level, next to Santa

Dec. 18-23: 12:00 pm - 8:00 pm Dec. 24: 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

American Legion Post 991 New Years Eve Party

The American Legion Post 991 is hosting a New Years Eve party in our banquet

6:30 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Live music with "The Bobby Dunne Band", food & party favors, champagne and entertainment all included is the low price of $25 per person.

Reservations and prior payment required. Tickets are on sale at out public bar. All are welcome and no tickets sales at the door. All reservations of individuals or by table (8 or 10 people) must be paid in advance by December 20th. Book now, limited seating.

For reservations or more information, call 708-448-7006 or 708-448-6699, or stop by at 1101 S. Depot Avenue, Worth, IL.

Trinity Lutheran Preschool two year old preschool program

Trinity Lutheran Preschool is proud to announce the winter session of their two year old preschool program. The winter session of "Two by Two" will begin on Wednesday, January 9, 2013. This will be a time for two year olds along with a special adult (mom, dad, grandparent, or caregiver) to have fun with storytime, crafts, music, movement, and more. Babysitting available for a fee.

Wednesday 9:30a.m. -10:30a.m. at Trinity Lutheran Preschool, 9701 S. Brandt Ave., Oak Lawn, IL 60453. The five week session will begin on January 9, 2013. $50.00 for the five week session.

Call Cathy Cepican at 708-422-0193 to register and for more information. Registration deadline - January 7, 2013.

Annual display of Christmas trees and religious displays shown in Pappas' office

Almost 90 Christmas trees and religious displays reflecting Chicagoland's ethnic diversity are being shown during this holiday season in the office of Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas.

"Holiday Trees from Around the World," an annual tradition in Pappas' office, can be seen by the public in Room 112 of the Cook County Building, 118 N. Clark St., Chicago.

Three foot high Christmas trees decorated by sponsoring groups and individuals to reflect specific cultural traditions are on counters and tables through the Treasurer's Office, along with displays from the African American, Hindu, Jewish and Moslem traditions.

The trees may have not only ornaments and tinsel, but also animals, flowers, fruit, balls, candles, plates, boats, stars, flags and other items.

Trees and displays representing the following countries, groups and ethnic communities will be on display through January 4, 2013:

African American, Albania, Argentina, Assyrian, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Barbie Doll, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Canada-Quebec, Carpatho-Rusyn, China, Colombia, Cornwall, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, England, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala.

Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Ireland Northern, Italy, Japan, Korea, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Mexico, Native American, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Puerto Rico, Romania, Russia, Scotland, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, Uruguay, Ukraine, United States, Vietnam, Wales.

Merry Christmas From George, His Family, and Staff
GEORGE'S DINER
11758 S. Pulaski, Alsip (708) 388-2720
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Our Savior's Church Christmas dinner

Our Savior's Christmas Dinner for 50 U.S. NAVY recruits from Great Lakes Naval Training Center, homeless and senior citizens. This is our 12th year hosting the dinner at Our Savior's Church in Burbank at 8607 S Narraganset Ave on Christmas Day at 1:00pm. Each year we have had over 200 people at our dinner. Everyone is welcome to the dinner. This entire dinner is provided solely through donations of very generous people, businesses, and organizations. This dinner is free of charge for all who need a place to go for Christmas Dinner. For more details contact Mike Groark at 708-857-1034.

The Salvation Army Blue Island Corps Community Center to distribute food and toys to 250 families

The Salvation Army Blue Island Corps, with a little help from Santa, will distribute clothing, toys and Christmas food baskets to more than 250 children and their families at their annual holiday distribution event on Tuesday, December 18, 2012.

This free distribution will provide Christmas essentials to families who would otherwise go without this holiday season. The food boxes were recently packaged at The Salvation Army's Emergency Disaster Services Center in Elk Grove Village. More than 10,000 boxes of food were delivered to Salvation Army locations across the Chicagoland area, including the Blue Island Corps Community Center.

Tuesday, December 18, 2012, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

At The Salvation Army Blue Island Corps Community Center, 2900 Burr Oak Ave [127th Street], Blue Island.

Two Smith CCRCs to hold annual Holiday Family Brunches

December 27 at Smith Crossing, December 28 at Smith Village.

Two continuing care retirement communities (CCRCs), one in Chicago's Beverly neighborhood on the South Side and the other southwest suburban, will welcome families, who want to learn more about options for retirement living, to their annual Holiday Family Brunches near the end of the month when they still are decked out in their seasonal finest.

From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 27, Smith Crossing invites prospective residents and their families to brunch at 10501 Emilie Lane in Orland Park just north of I-80 at the LaGrange Road exit. For reservations call 708-326-2308.

From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the next day, Friday, Dec. 28, Smith Village lays out the welcome mat at 2320 West 113th Place in Chicago. For reservations call 773-474-7303.

"These get-togethers are a special holiday tradition for us and give everyone a chance to mingle with our residents and get a taste of the lifestyle at our Smith communities," says Robert A. Boehm, corporate marketing director of Smith Senior Living, sponsor of two CCRCs.

The Presbyterian Church in Orland Park services

Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship Service
Sunday, December 23, 2012 - 10:00 a.m.

On this Sunday before Christmas, we will be celebrating God's pending gift to us. We will begin this service by lighting the fourth Advent Candle of Hope. The Celebration Ringers and Celebration Singers will perform during this service. Our Sunday School children (Grades Pre-K thru 7th) will be also perform.

Christmas Eve Early Worship Service
Monday, December 24, 2012 - 5:00 p.m.

In this early Christmas Eve Service, children will help remind us of the true meaning of Christmas through the presentation of "The Miracle in the Manger", which includes the biblical prophecies and accounts of Jesus' birth, a Children's Nativity, wonderful songs performed by the Sunday School children, and the lighting of the Christ Candle.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service
Monday, December 24, 2012 - 11:00 p.m.

Come and be part of this beautiful and traditional candlelight worship service as we light the Christ Candle and celebrate His birth. The Celebration Singers will enhance this meaningful service with a wonderful celebration of music.

The Presbyterian Church in Orland Park is located at 13401 South Wolf Road, Orland Park, IL. For more information call 708-448-8142.

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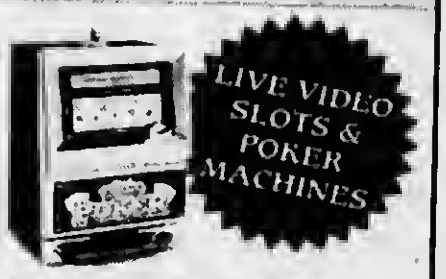
NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY
CHAMPAGNE TOAST
SURF & TURF Dinner
Live Entertainment & Party Favors
$50 per person



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(708) 448-0220
Open 7 Days A Week - Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR
Open Christmas Eve and Christmas Day
NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY
Hot Hors d'oeuvres • Champagne Toast
Party Favors • Open Bar
$40 per person

Also Full Menu Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner • Cocktail's • Banquet Room Up To 200

(L-R) Jack Lawlor (a sophomore from Burbank), Michael D'Andrea (a sophomore from Garfield Ridge), and Miguel Delvillar (a freshman from Scottsdale) packing the school van full of toys for local children in need.

St. Laurance holds successful toy drive

The National Honor Society of St. Laurence High School, the place "Where Leadership Begins," recently concluded its successful school-wide children's toy drive. More than 640 toys were collected from the student body and faculty in the holiday charity event.

The drive directly benefited the Worth Township Youth Commission's "Christmas Care Program," which distributes these items to families with young children in the area who are experiencing financial difficulties at this time.

"It was a worthwhile and successful drive. Once again our school family responded tremendously to the need," said Agnes Kasboske, the longtime moderator of the National Honor Society at St. Laurence.

St. Laurence's NHS officers for the 2012-2013 school year are: Marco Rodriguez, President (a senior from Heart of Chicago); Andrew Zarnowski, Vice President (a senior from Chicago Ridge); Michael Rispoli, Secretary (a senior from Garfield Ridge); Daniel Hecker, Treasurer (a senior from Burbank); and Sergio Dominguez, Historian (a junior from Chicago Lawn).

Park District activities in Oak Lawn

Winter Adult Sport Leagues Registration
(Volleyball & Basketball):
Registration Deadline: December 28, 2012
Contact Russ at 708-857-2420 for more information.

Skate with Santa Family Fun on Ice

Get a chance to tell Santa how good you have been this year by attending the Oak Lawn Park District's event, Skate with Santa Family Fun on Ice. Stop by the Ice Arena, 9320 S. Kenton Ave., on Sunday, December 23rd, from 2:00-3:15pm to visit Santa on and off the ice while CMT Productions provides the festive music.

Admission is $6.00 and skate rental is $3.00. Concessions will be available.

New Year's Eve Kids Countdown

The Oak Lawn Park District Ice Arena's 8th Annual New Year's Eve Kids Countdown, will take place on Monday, December 31st, from 11:00am-1:30pm at 9320 S. Kenton Ave.

CMT Productions will provide great entertainment as you enjoy family time together. Each child will receive a party hat and noisemaker to celebrate the balloon drop over the ice at 12:00pm.

Admission is $8.00 and skate rental is $3.00. Concessions will be available.

For more information on any Ice Arena events, please contact 708-857-5173.

Merry Christmas To All

From the Village of Evergreen Park

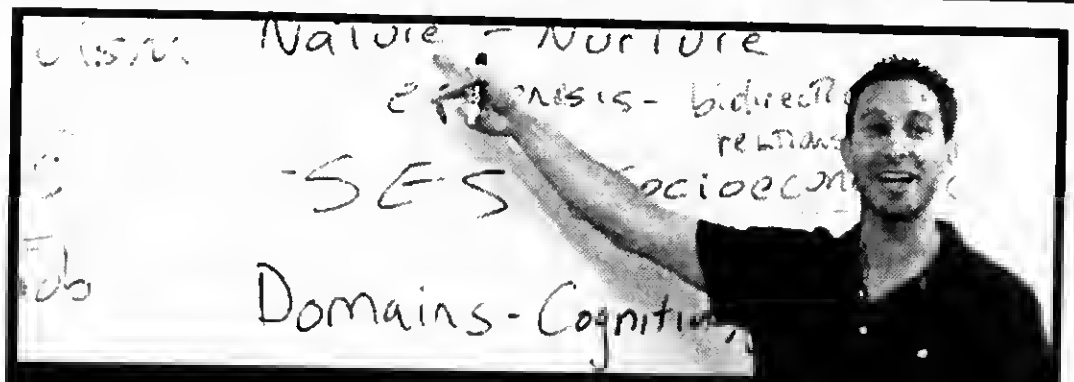
Mayor: James J. Sexton
Clerk: Cathy Aparo
Trustees:
Jerry Bosch, Mary Keane,
Carol Kyle, Mark Marzullo,
Jim Mc Quillan, Mark Phelan

Rosangela's
Pizza Restaurant
Since 1955
2807 W. 95 Street
Evergreen Park, IL

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

708-422-2041

Hours:
Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 11 am - 10 pm
Friday & Saturday 11 am - 11 pm
Sunday 1 pm - 10 pm • Closed Tuesday
Dine In • Carry Out • Delivery • Catering Available



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Moraine Valley

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EVERGREEN PARK, IL 60805

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December 31st, 2012

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Fall & Summer Adult Bowling Leagues

Italian-Yes authored by Ten Women

by Annette Dixon

Sister Mary Ventura O.P. holding an award from E.L.S. at St. Bernadette School in Evergreen Park. She also is Editor of Italian -Yes!

Italian -Yes is the third book, co-written by members of the Italian American Women's Club. The following members contributed their story in this book, they are: Sister Mary Ventura O.P., Virginia Anne Naso Morgan, Paulina Barraco, Phyllis Louise Naso Pinotti, Mary Lou Apicella Gorka, Susie Ann (Sue Ann) DeLuca Bement, Annette Stella Dixon, Laverne DePaul White, Catherine Damico Boyle, Francine Lanzillotti Lazzara.

In 1998, when the Italian American Women's Club was founded by Sister Mary Ventura and Annette Dixon, the club shared their views in studying and learning about Italian American Women who have accomplished much in this country. That gave credence for us to tell a story about the women in our lives who were family members and who have succeeded in their own right. The first book titled Voices of America, Italian American Women of Chicagoland was published by Arcadia and can still be purchased at book stores and Amazon.com.

Carol Broadway, a past president, loved cooking and knew we could use our own family recipes and develop a successful cookbook, and so we did, that became our second book. After several years of hard work and lots of sales, we discontinued our self published book.

We now have our third book titled Italian-Yes, Italian American Women's Club, the Publisher is Xlibris Corporation, 1-888-795-4274. www.Xlibris.com or Orders@Xlibris.com The ebook can be purchased through Amazon.com.

All money that has been earned from the books paid for 25 plus scholarships for young Italian men and women who were attending college. Our current president, Francine Lazzara hopes to continue our scholarship program for 2013.

Oak Lawn Library announcements

Local History Book

The recently published book, "Images of America: Oak Lawn," from the Oak Lawn Public Library's Local History Department makes the perfect holiday gift! Containing over 200 photographs with captions and chapter introductions, the book highlights many different aspects of Oak Lawn's history including Round-Up Days and the 1967 Tornado. The book is available for purchase at the Library's first floor reception booth for $21.99.

In addition, an expansive photograph exhibit is now open for viewing. Featuring over 100 historic Oak Lawn images and dozens of artifacts, the display is located in the Local History Room on the library's second floor.

Library's "Toys for Tots" Campaign Underway

Bring holiday joy to those less fortunate by participating in a "Toys for Tots" drive sponsored by the Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Ave. Gifts for children up to age 12 may be dropped off in the library's lobby until Noon on Saturday, Dec. 22. Items should be unwrapped so that they may be sorted according to age and gender. No stuffed animals, please. Donations for the library's ongoing Food Drive are also being accepted.

Library Holiday Closings

The Oak Lawn Public Library will be closed on the following dates: Sunday through Tuesday, Dec. 23-25 for Christmas; and Sunday through Tuesday, Dec. 30 through Jan. 1 for New Year's.

The library's regular hours are: Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Registration for Youth Service Programs

Registration for Winter/Spring 2013 Youth Services programs at the Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Avenue, begins Wednesday, Jan. 3 and continues through Sunday, Jan. 13 – or until full. Each child's library card must be presented at the time of registration.

Opera Lecture: La Bohème

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Avenue, will host a free lecture on the opera "La Bohème" " on Sunday, Jan. 6 at 1:30 p.m. At this informative session, a member of the Lyric Opera Lecture Corps will explain the plot, play musical selections and give background on the composer. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Oak Lawn Public Library.

Friends Request Book Sale Donations

Donate your "gently used" books, magazines, CDs and videos to the Friends of the Oak Lawn Library Ongoing Book Sale at the Oak Lawn Public Library. Due to space limitations, the Friends will not accept Readers Digest Condensed Books, encyclopedias and older text books.

The donation drop-off area is near the library's Cook Avenue entrance. Interested parties may fill out a short form at the Reception Booth to receive a tax letter by mail that acknowledges their donation.

The Friends Ongoing Book Sale provides an ever-changing variety of books, magazines and other forms of media at bargain prices. Hardcover books cost 50 cents each, paperbacks are 25 cents and magazines cost five cents each. Audio visual items are priced as indicated. Funds collected from the book sale support library programming and purchases that are beyond their regular budget.

FAFSA Seminar at the Oak Lawn Public Library

Take control of the financial aid process before it's too late! Gerald Knight - CPA, MBA and MSA - of Tax Busters will present a FAFSA Seminar on Tuesday, Jan. 8 at 7 p.m. at the Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Avenue. Knight will show you how to estimate your expected parent contribution before you submit your FAFSA application. Strategies for becoming more eligible for financial aid, as well as an explanation of the American Opportunity Tax Credit will be included.

Health Screenings at Library

The Oak Lawn Community Partnership will hold free health screenings at the Oak Lawn Public Library, on Wednesday, Jan. 9 from 10-11 a.m. Blood pressure screenings will be performed by personnel from the Oak Lawn Fire Department. Glaucoma screenings will be offered by Dr. Katherine Narbone of Complete Vision Care in Oak Lawn.

The Oak Lawn Community Partnership is a cooperative alliance between the Village of Oak Lawn, Advocate Christ Medical Center, service organizations, educators, interested community members and business leaders.

For more information about this and other library programs, call (708) 422-4990 or visit www.oaklawnlibrary.org.Oak Lawn Public Library is located at 9427 S. Raymond Ave.

City of Blue Island
ROCK-AROUND THE CLOCK
NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION
Monday December 31st
11:45pm - Midnight
Under the clock at Vermont St. & Western Ave
Free Party Favors!
Fireworks & Lighted Ball Drop at Midnight!
www.blueisland.org
Sponsored by the City of Blue Island

Celebrate Christmas Eve with your family
Oak Lawn Community Church
9000 S. Ridgeland, Oak Lawn
Monday, December 24th
at 6:30 pm
Children's Angel Choir
Chancel Choir
Christmas Story, Songs & more
For more information
call 708-599-4025
Carol Sing Service: Sunday, December 30th
(sing carols and enjoy cookies and hot chocolate)
and Agape Service: Sunday, January 6th,
(a breakfast of cheese, coffeecake, etc)
Both services at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall

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We can pack and ship all of your holiday gifts as we have all four shippers in one convenient location. We also have a gift shop inside our store with unique gifts, greeting cards and gift wrapping!
A Santa Letter will delight every child on your holiday list this Christmas season. Imagine the joy when they open a letter from Santa personally addressed to them!!
Gift Certificates Available for All Occasions
All major credit cards accepted
Featured Letters:
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Letter from the Easter Bunny
Call to Order - Only $5 Each

Superintendent/Principal Michael Riordan congratulates John Morgan and Baily Kean on their induction into the school's chapter of the National Honor Society. Baily and John was two of 65 students inducted.

OLCHS inducts 65 students into the National Honor Society

Sixty-five Oak Lawn Community High School students were inducted into the National Honor Society. The ceremony was conducted by the Chapter President Nicholas Contino, Vice-president Kyle Cheng, Corresponding Secretary Connor Niemiec, Recording Secretary Sean Dunne, and Treasurers Jenna Hurckes and Ronald Luce. Superintendent/Principal Michael Riordan, Assistant Principal Joseph McCurdy and Chapter Adviser Jessica Nickless presented the awards.

The inductees were selected by a faculty council for meeting high standards of scholarship, service, leadership, and character. They will serve Oak Lawn Community High School as National Honor Society members on various service projects in the school and throughout the community.

The guest speaker was Mrs. Janice Voight, Business Teacher and Attendance Coordinator. Janice reflected upon her many years of service as a member of Oak Lawn Community High School. Her words inspired the members to always do their best and to provide the Spartan community with service and leadership. Mrs. Voight's words of encouragement provided motivation for all to take an active role in promoting Spartan PRIDE.

The following students were inducted: Jacob Allen, Brooke Annerino, Tesneim Awadallah, Natalia Bak, Melissa Barragan, Steven Boetscher, Randel Bracken, Julia Bugaj, Rachel Burba, Cathal Burke, Fajjar Butt, Sarah Cafagna, Nicholas Chovancek, Weronika Ciezczak, Noor Dakhlallah, Nicholas Demas, Stephanie Dominguez, Julie Eble, Colleen Fahy, Jamie Fionda, Natalia Gawelda, Fidencio Gonzalez, Miranda Gray, Melissa Greiman, Bushra Hamad, Marc Hansen, Kyle Huyes, Jordan Hepburn, Haley Hiljus, Tara Hill, Isabella Ibarra, Yara Ismail, Morgan Jozsa, Daniel Kalinin, Bailey Kean, Marcin Krzysiak, Kyle Kuzur, Brittani LaRusso, Amanda Leone, Rebecca Mackowiak, Kathleen Mancillas, Lauren Misner, John Morgan, Kayed Nofal, Kristen O'Connor, Hana Odeh, David Oliver, Bayan Ouri, Andrea Pacetti, Megan Pacetti, James Pattara, Kathleen Plutz, Megan Pripusich, Kayla Reichert, Dominika Rosinska, Victoria Roti, Emma Roza, Emily Salomone, Derek Schapiro, Adam Smith, Jason Snyder, Mitchell Swatek, Nayfah Thnaibat, Shelby Trybula, and Kamila Zaremba.

High Schools advertise your Open Houses, Entrance Exams by calling Linda at 708-425-1910.

Register now for spring classes at Moraine Valley

Moraine Valley Community College can help students realize their educational goals, pursue an associate's degree and prepare for a successful future. Registration is underway for the spring 2013 semester, which starts Jan. 14 with on-campus credit classes. Off-campus credit classes and on-campus continuing education classes begin Jan. 22, and off-campus continuing edueation classes begin Jan. 28.

Some of the college's courses are offered in different formats to accommodate the needs of students, making it easy for people to fit college classes into their life. These Flexible Learning Options include:

Online and Internet Hybrid classes
Short-Term Classes
Weekend Classes
Off-Campus Classes
Evening Classes
One-Day-a-Week Classes

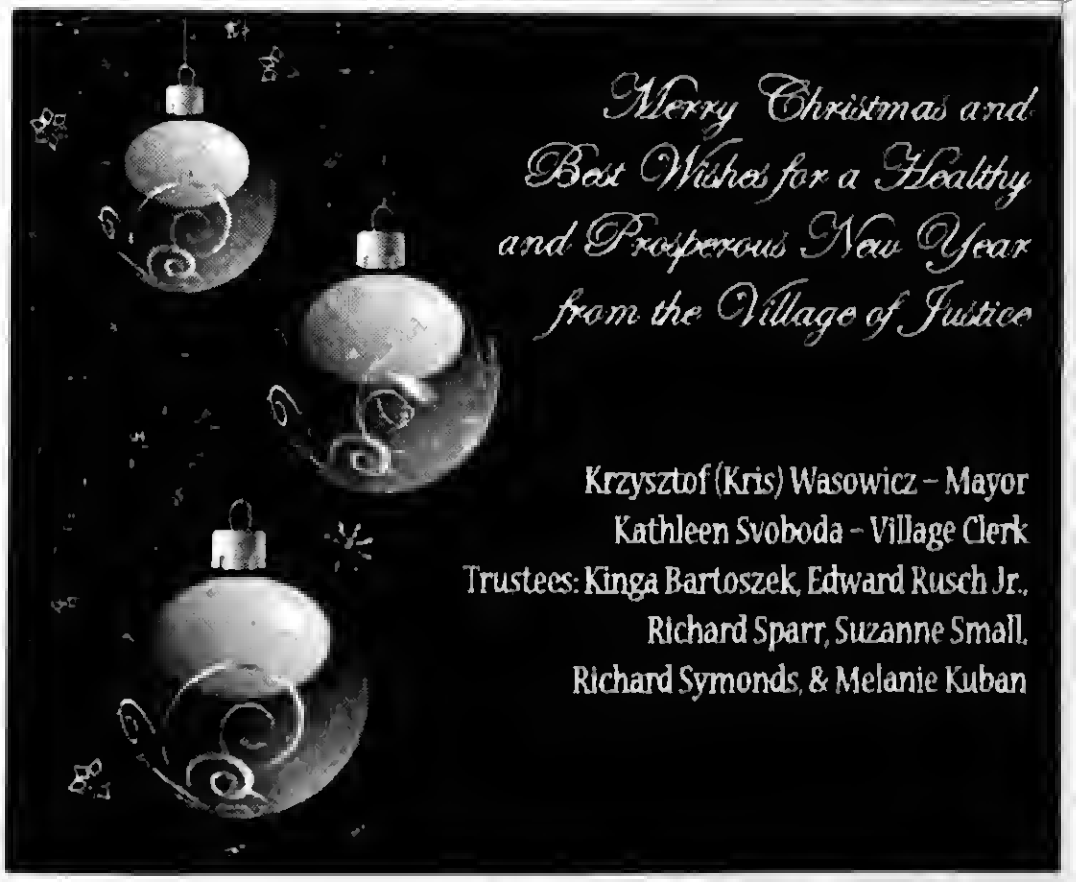
A complete list of credit and noncredit classes can be found in the spring 2013 class schedule or online at morainevalley.edu. Registration is ongoing. Tuition is $104 per credit hour plus fees and books. Students who have applied to the college can register in the Registration Office, located on campus in the Student Services Center (Building S), 9000 W. College Pkwy. in Palos Hills: by phone at (708) 974-2110 (TTY for the hearing impaired 708-974-9556); or online at morainevalley.edu.

St. Christopher Parish presents Silent Night Stille Nacht

Join us, Thursday, December 27, 2012 at 7:00 pm. for an evening of Christmas Music when the St. Christopher Music Ministry, presents Silent Night Stille Nucht. The Adult, Children's and Living Stones Choirs, and Hand Bell Choir accompanied by our St. Christopher Chumber Orchestra will perform their Christmus Favorites at St. Christopher Church, 147th and Keeler, Midlothian.

Free Will Offering, Refreshments following the concert.

Visit www.philnamymusic.com to check out information on-The Smoky Mountains, June '13, Mackinae Island, June '13, Mt. Rushmore, June '14, Million Dollar Quartet, '14.



Green Hills Public Library events

Find Us Online

The Library is online! Find us on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, and YouTube. Watch for exclusive updates, photos, and videos!

Public Fax and Scanner

The Library now has a fax and scanner available for public use. Scan documents and photos to a USB device, printer, or email address for free. Fax service is available for $1.00 per page.

Friends of the Library Bookstore

Our hard-working volunteers maintain an Ongoing Book Sale in the Friends of the Library Bookstore on the ground level of the library. Browse used books, movies, music, and more. Contact the Library for store hours.

Volunteering

Are you interested in volunteering at the library? Do you need the hours for school or are you just looking to help out your local library? There are a few different opportunities available! Call the library for more details at (708) 598-8446.

Tumblebooks

We now offer a collection of TumbleBooks (animated talking picture books) with fiction, non-fiction and foreign language titles. Read-Alongs (chapter books with sentence highlighting and narration but no animation). Ebooks which may be viewed online, and Tumble Puzzles & Games. Visit our website for details.

Digital Lab

The Digital Lab at the Library is a great way to creatively express yourself. There is one Apple workstation with two 27" dual screens for editing. The software includes the Adobe Creative Suite, GarageBand, iMovie, and Final Cut Pro. We have purchased a keyboard, guitar, bamboo pad, and other accessories to help you create music, brochures, and yes, movies! There are also items available for checkout. For more details, please call (708) 598-8446 ext. 120.

Freegal Music

We are offering Freegal Music, a downloadable music service that gives you access to the Sony Music Entertainment catalog, offering hundreds of thousands of songs, over 100 genres of music, and more than 50 record labels. Visit our website for details.

Mango Languages

This is the time to learn a new language with Mango Languages! Mango Languages is a free language learning service provided by the library that combines everyday conversation skills, memory building strategies and interactivity. This service requires no training, software downloads, or installations. It is fun, effective, and easy to use. Some of the languages include are Spanish, French, Japanese, Brazilian Portuguese, German, Mandarin Chinese, Greek, Italian, Russian, Polish, Danish, and more! There are even programs for ESL. Contact the Library to find out how to get started.

Download eBooks

You can now download best-selling and classic audiobooks, eBooks, music, and video, anytime, anywhere. There are no late fees! You can download best-selling novels, well-known classics, self-improvement guides, and much more. There are a variety of e-platforms, including Media On Demand, Freading, Axis 360, and more to come!

Check out an eReader!

The library has several Kindles and Nooks available for checkout. Best-selling fiction and non-fiction titles are among the collection. Ask at the Circulation Desk or call (708) 598-8446 ext. 110 for more details.

Holiday Hours

We will be closed on January 1st, 2013.

Christmas Eve

The Library will be open from 9:00am to 3:00pm on December 24th. We will roll out 100 movies on DVD new to our collection to help with your holiday entertaining! Help celebrate the day with free hot chocolate and goodies! Pick up a last minute book in the Friends Book Sale Shop. Browse for a book or magazine. Complain about the weather and the crowds with our friendly staff! Hang out with your kids or grandkids in the Youth Department or watch a movie in the new Teen Center.

New camp for preschoolers

Trinity Lutheran Preschool, 9701 S. Brandt Ave. Oak Lawn, is proud to announce the addition of Explore....More at Reading is Fun Camp. The session will be held on Wednesdays from 1-2 p.m. for four weeks, starting January 30, 2013 . Preschoolers will explore a new book and a new author each week. The first book is "The Popcorn Book", by Tomie dePaola. Camp limited to 20 students.

Cost for the four week camp is $40.00. Ages 3-5. Please call Cathy Cepican, 708-422-0193 for Questions.

Happy Holidays and Good Health in the New Year!

Palos Township Officials

Colleen Grant Schumann
Supervisor

Jane Nolan, Clerk
Robert E. Maloney, Assessor
Gene Adams, Highway Commissioner
Donald Mahoney, Collector
Sandra Carbonara, Trustee
Lauralee Conway, Trustee
Peter Poulos, Trustee
Nora Ryan, Trustee

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Years

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12307 S. Harlem Avenue • Palos Heights, IL
708-671-1657
Hours: Monday 4pm-10pm, Tuesday-Thursday 11am-2pm 4pm-10pm
Friday 11am-2pm 4pm-11pm, Saturday 4pm-11pm, Sunday 3pm-9pm

Study the Bible By Mail

(Free Course)

In order to encourage a greater understanding of the bible, a free Bible Correspondence Course is now being offered. This course is

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• Totally non-denominational

You keep the eight lesson booklets. For a free sample lesson, email studybymail@netzero.net or call (630) 258-7868 or send your name and address to:

Bible Correspondence Course
7303 West 83rd Street, Bridgeview, IL 60455

May Peace, Joy, Hope and Happiness be yours during this Holiday Season and throughout the New Year!

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Eugene L. Siegel
Mayor

Charles E. Tokar
Clerk

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John F. Lind
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Michael R. Davies
Brad C. Grove
Bruce D. Quintos
James S. Salmoris

Advertise in all 4 newspapers and On Line for one price call for details at 708-425-1910.

Opening night for The Book of Mormon is December 19 at Bank of America

THE BOOK OF MORMON, winner of nine Tony Awards including Best Musical, is pleased to announce a day-of-show drawing for the Second National Tour. Performances are sold out December 11, 2012 through March 3, 2013. Tickets are still available for performances March 5 through June 2, 2013.

The wildly popular day-of-show drawing for the Broadway production has attracted as many as 800 entries at some performances. The producers of THE BOOK OF MORMON are pleased to offer low-priced day-of-show drawing seats in Chicago.

Entries for that day's performance(s) will be accepted in-person when the Bank of America Theatre box office opens each day. Each person will print their name and the number of tickets (1 or 2) they wish to purchase on a card that is provided. Two hours before curtain, names will be drawn at random for a limited number of tickets priced at $25 each. Only one entry is allowed per person. Cards are checked for duplication prior to drawing. Winners must be present at the time of the drawing and show valid ID to purchase tickets. Limit one entry per person and two tickets per winner. Tickets are subject to availability.

THE BOOK OF MORMON is the winner of nine Tony Awards, including Best Musical, Best Score, tickets are available at all Broadway In Chicago Box Offices or for those on social media you can visit www.BookofMormonThe Musical.com and follow THE BOOK OF MORMON on Twitter and on Facebook.

Rockettes rock at the AkooTheatre at Rosemont

MSG Entertainment (MSGE) announces an all new production of the Radio City Christmas Spectacular, starring the Rockettes, as Chicago audiences will experience the magic of Christmas like never before. In this multifaceted production, the Rockettes will dance their way through an awe-inspiring journey with new scenes, an array of glamorous new costumes, dramatic lighting effects, and a 50-foot LED screen that will enhance the show with breathtaking new imagery. The Christmas Spectacular will run at the Akoo Theatre at Rosemont from December 14-30, 2012.

This year, the Radio City Christmas Spectacular celebrates 85 magical years of the Rockettes, commemorating their past, present and future in this unprecedented milestone year. The Rockettes have remained a timeless tradition as American icons throughout their 85 year legacy. They continue to take the Christmas Spectacular to new heights, dazzling audiences with their performance style as it continues to be both deceivingly complex and entirely glamorous.

In a brand new scene, "New York at Christmas," the Rockettes will board a life size double-decker tour bus, taking audiences on a guided tour through the streets of New York City.

In the Christmas Spectacular's 18-year combined history outside of New York, as well as the production at Radio City Music Hall, the show has played to more than 72 million people. The Christmas Spectacular continues to create memories that audiences have come to treasure, and this year will mark an all new Spectacular experience for Chicago.

The Radio City Christmas Spectacular, presented by Chase, plays at the Akoo Theatre at Rosemont during the 2012 holiday season for 34 dazzling performances, December 14-30, 2012. A limited number of Premium seats are available for $79.00 - $89.00 and single ticket prices range from $30.00 - $75.50.

Tickets for the Radio City Christmas Spectacular are on sale to the public at the Akoo Theatre at Rosemont box office, online at www.ticketmaster.com or by calling 800-745-3000. Discounts for Groups!

Chicago Shakespeare Theater still cranking them out

by Annette Dixon

The School for Lies directed by Barbara Gaines featuring Ben Carlson and Deborah Hay has one laughing throughout the play. Moliere's The Misanthrope is nothing like this one, nor is it suppose to be.

Several actors made their Chicago Shakespeare debut and the audience loved every bit of them. Judith Marie Bergan who plays Arsinoe shows us her professional stage presence immediately. Ms. Bergan has over 65 television and film credits and she is a graduate of the Goodman Theatre, where she receive her BFA and the Sarah Siddons Award.

Deborah Hay (Celimene) recently performed at the Stratford Festival; and five seasons at the Show Festival, where she played leading ladies in many outstanding plays. Ms. Hay trained at York University (BFA) and as a member of the Stratford Festival Conservatory.

Kudoos to David Ives, Playwright for his outstanding work in this play. Mr. Ives, a former Guggenheim Fellow in playwriting, lives in New York City.

Chicago Shakespeare Theater's The School for Lies runs now through January 20, 2013 in CST's Courtyard Theater.

Tickets are on sale now for $58–$78 and all patrons receive a 40% discount on guaranteed parking in Navy Pier garages.

To purchase tickets, contact the Box Office at 312.595.5600 or visit the Theater's website at www.chicagoshakes.com/school.

Chicago's well loved Joffrey's Nutcracker turns 25

by Annette Dixon

The Joffrey Ballet presents the Silver Anniversary of The Nutcracker. This superb cast makes one feel delighted to be entertained with an 1850's elegant party for Christmas Eve. Not only is it a party, but we are being entertained by children namely; Viola Pantuso, age 9, from Hinsdale and later in the performance the Gingerbread; Evelyn Labus, age 10, from Lockport.

Viola Pantuso is a student at Joffrey Academy of Dance and mentioned that she was called Child 1, surely this was a great part. Viola shows much talent and we look forward to seeing her once again on stage.

Evelyn Labus, said that her mother was also a dancer years ago, and was delighted to allow her to dance in this 25th Anniversary Year of Nutcracker.

You can celebrate the holidays by purchasing a ticket at the Auditorium Theater Box Office 50 East Congress Pkwy. or call 800-982-2787 before Dec. 27.

Christopher Plummer portrays John Barrymore at Music Box

Music Box is pleased to offer BARRYMORE, plus "making of" documentary BACKSTAGE WITH BARRYMORE featuring Helen Mirren, Julie Andrews and Zoe Caldwell, on Thursday, December 27, 7:30 p.m. at Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport Ave. www.musicboxtheatre.com

Barrymore is played by Academy Award winner and master thespian Christopher Plummer, reprising his 1997 Tony Award-winning role. His nuanced performance has earned him rave reviews and, for a film that didn't find a distributor after its World Premiere at the 2011 Toronto International Film Festival, talk of a third Academy Award nomination, and more importantly, a nomination for Best Actor after three nominations and one win for Best Stipporting Actor. Could this staged one-man play, where Plummer chews the scenery for the entirety of its running time, get him that nomination?

Thursday, December 27, 7:30 p.m. at Music Box Theatre. Tickets $15 in advance www.musicboxtheatre.com/events/barrymore-2012-12-27-730-pm or $18 at the door. Music Box currently has the largest cinema space operated full time in the city. This 1929 immaculately clean Art Deco theater, is independently owned and operated by the Southport Music Box Corporation. SMBC, through its Music Box Films division, also distributes foreign and independent films in the theatrical, DVD and television markets throughout the U. S.A. www.musicboxtheatre.com

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HOLIDAY HINTS

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Turn off, unplug and extinguish all decorations when going to sleep or leaving the house.

Ten Tips For A Safer Season

(NAPSA)-While treasured holiday customs such as decorating, baking and entertaining are all part of what makes the holiday season a cherished time for family and friends, they can increase the risks for home fires and serious injuries-but not if you put safety at the top of your holiday "to-do" list with these tips:

• Check that electrical decorations have a certification label from a nationally recognized testing laboratory, which indicates that they have been tested for safety.

• Inspect all electrical decorations for damage before use. Cracked or frayed sockets, loose or bare wires, and loose connections may cause a serious shock or start a fire.

• Never connect more than three strings of incandescent lights together. These lights require a surprising amount of energy and can overload the electrical circuit. LED lights use less power, letting you safely connect more strings.

• Do not overload electrical outlets. Overloaded outlets and faulty wires are a common cause of holiday fires.

• Protect cords from damage. Power and extension cords should never be pinched in doors, windows or under heavy furniture. Do not place cords under carpets or rugs, and never nail or staple them to the wall or baseboard.

• Check for freshness when purchasing a live Christmas tree and keep your tree fresh by watering it daily. Dry trees are a serious fire hazard.

• Use battery-operated candles instead of traditional candles. Candles are responsible for 45 percent of fires involving holiday decorations.

• Keep combustibles, including presents, stockings and the Christmas tree, at least three feet from heat sources such as the fireplace or space heater. Heat sources that are too close to decorations are a factor in 48 percent of home holiday decoration fires.

• Stay in the kitchen when something is cooking. Unattended cooking equipment is the leading cause of home cooking fires.

• Turn off, unplug and extinguish all decorations when going to sleep or leaving the house. Half of all home fire deaths occur between 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

Learn More

For further safety tips and tactics, visit the experts at the Electrical Safety Foundation International online at www.esfi.org or call (703) 841-3229.

Did you know

(NAPS)—A cool way to keep food fresh is with the LG Mega-Capacity French-Door Refrigerator, a huge French-door refrigerator with eight more cubic feet than standard models of the same footprint. Learn more at www.lg.com/us/kitchen/refrigerators.jsp.

The independent companies of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield (BCBS) Association provide access to health and wellness deals through its Blue365 program, free and exclusive to members of BCBS companies that agree to offer it. Learn more at www.blue365deals.com.

Storage vendors like WD offer a variety of backup solutions for everyday consumers, including portable and desktop external hard drives that connect to the computer via ultra-fast USB 3.0 connections, such as WD's My Passport line of portable drives or My Book line of desktop drives.

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The Benefits Of Senior Living Communities

(NAPSA)-Those who believe that retirement should involve more than chores, home maintenance and yard work can often be found enjoying cultural or educational activities at an independent living community.

Such communities typically offer well-kept grounds, spacious attractive floor plans, and comfortable dining rooms where residents can enjoy fine dining experiences with a varied menu.

To help start a conversation with your loved one about assisted living housing options, focus on the retirement community's social and educational opportunities.

When it comes to programs, residents can often pursue a wide range of interests, such as art classes, pet therapy, walking club, rosary, meditation, yoga, team trivia and bridge club.

"The quality of our life span can be measurably affected and improved by the effort we put forth to keep our bodies and our minds healthy and in sync with one another," said Brookdale Chief Medical Officer Kevin O'Neil, M.D. "Physical activities like walking, aerobics and strength training, and mental activities like team trivia, current events and chess, are commonly offered at senior living communities. These activities help maintain a fit body and a sharp mind, which can add life to your years."

Often, independent living communities will also offer a range of services on-site to assist those with medical or social issues.

When care needs change, a senior may consider moving to assisted living. This type of community is designed for those who need some help in their daily lives but don't require the advanced medical care provided in a skilled nursing environment.

When you think that a loved one may no longer be able to live without assistance, here are some tips to start a conversation about assisted living from the experts at Brookdale Senior Living:

Do research: Having in hand information and facts about a few local assisted living communities can help you present the case factually.

Keep it private: Your initial conversation should be held in a comfortable private setting with a limited number of individuals. This low-key approach may help the person feel more open to hearing about a possible assisted living move.

Focus on the positives: You may want to talk about the services, the social opportunities and the security.

Making A Choice

When it comes time to actually select a community, here are some factors to consider:

• Does it offer a warm, homelike atmosphere and appealing outings and activities?

• How does the community meet health needs?

• Does the community meet all state and local licensing requirements?

Brookdale is the nation's largest owner and operator of senior living communities throughout the United States.

Learn more at www.brookdaleliving.com.

Small Business News & Notes

Survey Shows A Big Opportunity For Small Businesses

(NAPSA)-According to a new survey, consumer shopping habits are showing the biggest shift since Santa Claus first slid down the chimney. The survey showed that Internet sites are more popular than ever, with more than three-quarters of those surveyed saying they plan to shop for gifts online this holiday season.

However, the survey also revealed some positive news for smaller businesses and boutique stores-and potential ways to attract more customers. For instance, customers with higher incomes and without children are more likely to shop inside small stores and boutiques.

Plus, shoppers whose annual incomes top $100,000 visit stores in person more often than those who earn less. Seventy-five percent of parents said they're more likely to shop at major retailers, while just 60 percent of people without children preferred the big chains.

The Personal Touch

"Many shoppers prefer smaller businesses because they can cater to the needs of individuals in ways that major retailers simply cannot," said Megan Kavanaugh, executive director of Bags & Bows, a retail packaging firm.

Referring to the Deluxe survey results-which showed that 91 percent of gift-givers wrap their own presents-Kavanaugh explained, "By offering custom wrapping or providing attractive signature gift bags, small businesses can eliminate the wrapping hassle-and help the customer's gift stand out."

Many Like Real Mail

And when it comes to sending holiday cards and wrapping presents, traditional methods still prevail. Nearly 90 percent of survey respondents said they prefer to receive traditional cards versus an electronic one. "We all like getting a card in the mail-it makes us feel special," said Dave Lessing, general manager of PsPrint, an online printing company.

Younger People Shop Online

The survey-which was conducted by the Deluxe Corporation-showed that respondents between 18 and 34 make nearly 90 percent of purchases online. While the number is lower for older shoppers, people 65 and older also shop online in large numbers (48 percent).

For more information on the survey, visit www.deluxe.com/holiday_trends_survey.

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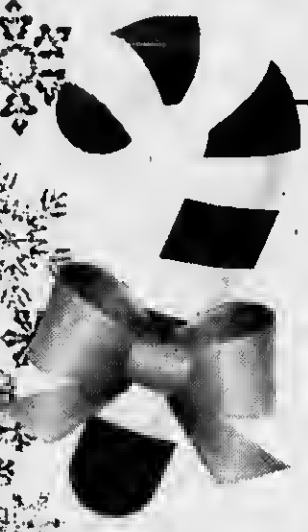

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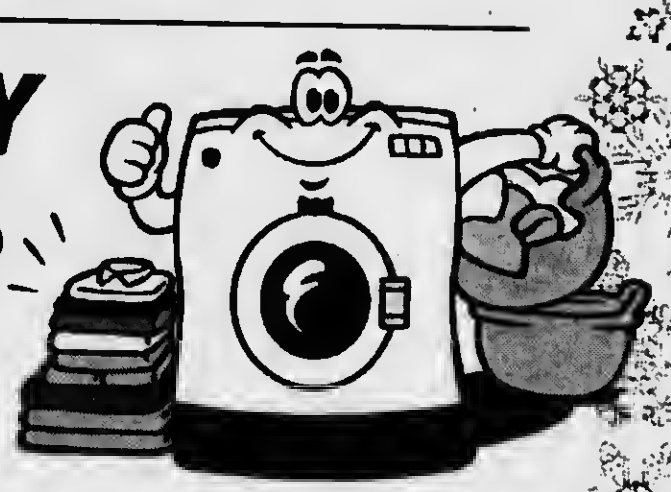

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